United Nations A/70/PV.104

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

104th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 14 June 2016, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Announcement regarding the results of the election of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees

The President: I should like to inform members that the following representatives have been elected Chairpersons of the five Main Committees of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and are accordingly members of the General Committee for that session: First Committee, Mr. Sabri Boukadoum of Algeria; Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak of Croatia; Second Committee, Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani of Indonesia; Third Committee, Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez of Colombia; and Sixth Committee, Mr. Danny Danon of Israel.

I congratulate the Chairpersons of the five Main Committees at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly on their election. The Assembly will be informed after the election of the Chairperson of the Fifth Committee at a later date, and the General Committee of the General Assembly for the seventy-first session will then be fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: I shall now invite the attention of the General Assembly to draft resolution A/70/L.53, circulated under agenda item 20 and entitled "Sustainable development".

Members will recall that at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 20 to the Second Committee. To enable the General Assembly to take action expeditiously on the document, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to consider agenda item 20 directly in plenary meeting and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 20 (*continued*)

Sustainable development

Draft resolution (A/70/L.53)

The President: The General Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/70/L.53, entitled "International Day of the Tropics".

I now give the floor to the representative of Australia to introduce draft resolution A/70/L.53.

Ms. Bird (Australia): I would first like to thank all member States for their active engagement on resolution A/70/L.53 and address special thanks to the sponsors.

The idea that we can understand some challenges and opportunities if we consider them through a tropics lens is one that resonates strongly for Australia. The tropics are home to 40 per cent of the world's population and host about 80 per cent of its terrestrial biodiversity. Approximately 40 per cent of Australia is in the tropics.

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Our tropical region includes some of our most beautiful landscapes, enjoys unique biodiversity and is rich in indigenous culture and heritage.

This region, like many tropical regions, attracts tourism, yields innovation in agriculture and aquaculture, and is home to other growth sectors. We also share challenges familiar to others living in tropical habitats around the globe: infrastructure demands and service delivery in the face of extreme climatic conditions; tropical health threats; and the complexity of managing resources and protecting fragile ecosystems.

However, where there are challenges we also see opportunities. We are excited by the potential to learn and collaborate with others in tropical countries and regions to find ways for the tropics to prosper.

Much of the activity and investment in support of the Sustainable Development Goals will take place in the tropics, particularly in the areas of poverty eradication, health, education, urbanization and the health of our oceans. This means that success in the tropics is a significant contribution to our global success.

Designating 29 June as International Day of the Tropics will allow us to lift the profile of the tropics around the globe. It will prompt us to consider global data from a tropical perspective to ask the question: is life in the tropics improving?

Deepening our understanding of the data tells us that there is a bigger story for the tropics. The State of the Tropics Project, supported by a network of academic institutions from across the globe coordinated by Australia's James Cook University, is a prime example of how much we can learn when we view the data we already have through a tropics lens.

An International Day of the Tropics will help crystallize the fact that tropical challenges need tropical solutions. In finding these solutions, we might also find innovations and contributions that are globally relevant. We look forward to working with all to celebrate the first International Day of the Tropics on 29 June.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/70/L.53.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.53, entitled "International Day of the Tropics".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of draft resolution A/70/L.53, and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Argentina, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cyprus, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Maldives, Micronesia, Montenegro, Panama, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.53?

Draft resolution A/70/L.53 was adopted (resolution 70/267).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 20.

Agenda item 56 (*continued*)

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/70/498/Add.1)

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once,

that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/70/498/Add.1) of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on agenda item 56, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 6 of that report.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/268).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 56.

Agenda item 112 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2016.

The eighteen outgoing members are: Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, Georgia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Pursuant to rule 146 of the rules of procedure, these countries are eligible for immediate re-election.

As of 1 January 2017, the following States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. The names of these thirty-six States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2847 (XXVI), of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2017, the eighteen members should be elected as follows: four from African States, four from Asia-Pacific States, three from Eastern European States, three from Latin American and Caribbean States and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, who receive a two-thirds majority and the greatest number of votes by members present and voting will be declared elected.

Also, consistent with past practice, in case, due to a tied vote, it becomes necessary to determine the candidate to be elected or that will proceed to the next round of restricted balloting, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to these procedures?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures for the respective regional groups, the Secretariat has been informed that for the four vacant seats from among the African States, the

Group has endorsed four candidates: Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Swaziland. For the four vacant seats from among the Asia-Pacific States, the Group has endorsed four candidates: China, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates. For the three vacant seats from among the Eastern European States, the Group has endorsed three candidates: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Russian Federation.

For the three vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group has endorsed three candidates: Colombia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. For the four vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, the Group has endorsed four candidates: Andorra, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. In addition, ballot papers will be given only to the representative seated directly behind the country's nameplate.

I should like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the time of the conduct of the election. Please be reminded that during the voting process, all campaigning should cease in the General Assembly Hall. This means in particular that once the meeting has begun, no more campaign material can be distributed inside the Hall.

All representatives are also requested to remain at their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner. I thank them for their cooperation.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote. A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if none of the names of the Member States on that ballot belong to the relevant region.

If a ballot paper of a region contains both the names of the Member States that belong to and that are outside of that region, the ballot remains valid, but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Wanner (Austria), Mrs. Vassil (El Salvador), Mrs. Le Diffard (Hungary), Mr. Khoo (Singapore), Mr. Davidson (South Africa) and Mr. Wickramarachchige (Sri Lanka) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.40 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A – Group of African States (4 seats)	
Number of ballot papers:	185
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	183
Required two-thirds majority:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Cameroon	183
Chad	175
Swaziland	173
Benin	163
Senegal	1
Congo	1
Botswana	1
Togo	1

Group B – Asia-Pacific States (4 seats)	
Number of ballot papers:	185
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	185
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Tajikistan	183
China	182
United Arab Emirates	180
Republic of Korea	179
Cambodia	3
Yemen	1

Group C – Eastern European States (3 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	185
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	184
Required two-thirds majority:	123
Number of votes obtained:	
Azerbaijan	176
Bosnia and Herzegovina	173
Russian Federation	169
Romania	10
Croatia	1
Belarus	1

Group D – Latin American and Caribbean States (3 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	185
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	183
Required two-thirds majority:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	179
Colombia	178
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	177

Group B – Western European and other States (1 seat)

Number of ballot papers:	185
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	7
Number of members voting:	178
Required two-thirds majority:	119
Number of votes obtained:	
Norway	177
Sweden	176
Andorra	174
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	172
Finland	1
Switzerland	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority of members present and voting, the following 18 States were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2017: Andorra, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The President: I congratulate those States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes this stage of our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 112.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.105

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

105th plenary meeting
Friday, 17 June 2016, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Sevilla Borja (Ecuador) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections

(b) Election of thirty members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The Acting President: Members will recall that, at its 50th plenary meeting on 9 November 2015, the General Assembly elected the following 23 States as members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for a six-year term of office beginning on 27 June 2016: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Mauritius, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Therefore, those 23 States are not eligible for election.

Members will also recall that, at its 91st plenary meeting on 15 April, the General Assembly elected the following five States as members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for a six-year term of office beginning on 27 June 2016: Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria and Uganda. Therefore, those five States are not eligible for election.

Members will further recall that there remain one seat to be filled from among the Group of African States and one seat from among the Group of Asia-Pacific States. I should like to remind members that as of 27 June 2016, the following States will continue to be represented on the Commission: Armenia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Liberia, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia. Therefore, those 30 States are not eligible for election.

The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of two members to replace those members whose terms of office will expire on 26 June 2016.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. I should like to recall, however, paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, whereby the practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled should become standard unless a delegation specifically requests a vote on a given election. In the absence of such a request, may I take it that the Assembly decides to proceed to this election on the basis of dispensing with the secret ballot?

It was so decided.

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The Acting President: With regard to candidates, I should like to inform members of the following. For the one seat from among the African States, the Group has endorsed Burundi. For the one seat from among the Group of Asia-Pacific States, the Group has endorsed Sri Lanka.

Since the number of candidates for the groups is equal to or less than the number of seats to be filled by each group, may I take it that the General Assembly wishes to declare those candidates elected for a six-year term of office beginning on 27 June 2016?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I congratulate Burundi and Sri Lanka, which have been elected members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 131, 149, 150 to 154, 156 to 160, 161 (a), 161 (b), 162 to 166, 148, 134 and 132.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Gert Auväärt of Estonia, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Fifth Committee before the Assembly.

Mr. Auväärt (Estonia), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: It is an honour to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee containing recommendations on issues that required action during the second part of the resumed seventieth session of the General Assembly.

In the course of the second part of the resumed session, which took place between 2 and 27 May and on 13 June, the Fifth Committee held seven plenary meetings, as well as numerous rounds of informal and informal informal consultations, some of them running late into the night and on weekends. In accordance with resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1994, the second part of the resumed session of the Fifth Committee was devoted primarily to considering the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and associated peacekeeping issues. The Committee considered the financing of 18 peacekeeping missions, as well as other items related to peacekeeping and to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

On agenda item 131, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/70/624/Add.2, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution that was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

On agenda item 134, entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017", in paragraph 6 of its report, contained in document A/70/648/Add.2, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

On agenda item 148, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations", in paragraph 12 of its report contained in document A/70/943, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following four draft resolutions: draft resolution I, entitled "Cross-cutting issues"; draft resolution II, entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations"; draft resolution III, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy"; and draft resolution IV, entitled "Financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda", which were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

With regard to the draft resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations, I should like to inform the General Assembly that, with the exception of agenda item 161 (b), entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", all the draft resolutions were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The reports of the Fifth Committee are presented under the following agenda items: item 149, "Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei", as contained in document A/70/926; item 150, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad", as contained in document A/70/927; item 151, "Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic", as contained in document A/70/928; item 152, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire", as contained in

document A/70/929; item 153, "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus", as contained in document A/70/930; item 154, "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", as contained in document A/70/931; item 156, "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste", as contained in document A/70/932; item 157, "Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti", as contained in document A/70/933; item 158, "Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo", as contained in document A/70/934; item 159, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia", as contained in document A/70/935; item 160, "Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali", as contained in document A/70/594/Add.1; item 161 (a), "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", as contained in document A/70/936; item 162, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan", as contained in document A/70/938; item 163, "Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic", as contained in document A/70/939; item 164, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", as contained in document A/70/940; item 165, "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur", as contained in document A/70/941; item 166, "Financing of the activities arising from the Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)", as contained in document A/70/942.

Regarding agenda item 161 (b), entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/70/937. The Committee considered the draft resolution, contained in paragraph 11, as orally amended, and decided to retain the fourth preambular paragraph and the existing operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 by a single recorded vote. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally amended, as a whole, which was also adopted in the Committee by a recorded vote.

Finally, under agenda item 132, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", in paragraph 5 of its report, contained in document A/70/649/Add.2, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision relating to questions deferred for future consideration. The proposal was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Before I conclude, allow me again to thank delegations for their cooperation and spirit of compromise in conducting the negotiations. I would also like to thank the Chair of the Fifth Committee, Ambassador Durga Prasad Bhattari, for the way in which he guided us through our heavy agenda for the second resumed session as well as throughout the seventieth session. I would also like to express my thanks to my fellow members of the Bureau, Mr. Omar Castañeda Solares, Mr. Yotam Goren, Mr. Bachar Bong Abdallah and Mr. Stefan Pretterhofer, with whom it was as always a pleasure to work. Allow me to also take this opportunity to thank the Fifth Committee secretariat, especially Ms. Sharon Van Buerle, Ms. Sarah Mueller and Ms. Lindsay Edwards, who helped guide our work through the seemingly endless nights of negotiations. We also give our sincere thanks to the interpreters and sound engineers.

I wish the best of luck to the next Bureau.

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the General Assembly rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members, that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I further remind delegations that also, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth

Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee unless notified otherwise in advance. That means that where recorded votes were taken, we will do the same. I also hope that we will proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Committee.

Agenda item 131 (*continued*)

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/624/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/248 C).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 131.

Agenda item 149

Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/926)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/269).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 149.

Agenda item 150

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/927)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/270).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 150.

Agenda item 151

Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/928)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/271).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 151.

Agenda item 152

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/929)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/272).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 152.

Agenda item 153

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/930)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/273).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 153

Agenda item 154

Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/931)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/274).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 154.

Agenda item 156

Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/932)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/275).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 156.

Agenda item 157

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/933)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/276).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 157.

Agenda item 158

Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/934)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/277).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 158.

Agenda item 159

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/935)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/278).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 159.

Agenda item 160

Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/594/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/113 B).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 160.

Agenda item 161

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/936)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same in this case?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/279).

The Acting President: I give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic in explanation of vote.

Mr. Awad (Syrian Arab Republic): My delegation joined the consensus adoption of resolution 70/279, on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and will vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 of document A/70/937, on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, based on the confirmed principle that responsibility for the funding of those two forces must be borne by Israel, the occupying Power, whose actions led to their establishment. Our decision is in line with basic principles contained in resolution 1874 (S-IV), of 27 June 1963.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 161.

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/937)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon". A recorded vote has been requested. A single, separate recorded vote has been requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13. I shall put them to the vote now.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala,

Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 were retained by 104 votes to 3, with 49 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Liechtenstein informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

None

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 155 votes to 3 (resolution 70/280).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 161.

Agenda item 162

Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/938)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/281).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 162.

Agenda item 163

Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/939)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/282).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 163.

Agenda item 164

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/940)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/283).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 164.

Agenda item 165

Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/941)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/284).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 165.

Agenda item 166

Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/942)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/285).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 166.

Agenda item 148

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/943)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it four draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report. We will now take decisions on draft resolutions I through IV.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Cross-cutting issues". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 70/286).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 70/287).

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 70/288).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 70/289).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 148.

Agenda item 134 (*continued*)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/648/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 70/248 C).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 134.

Agenda item 132 (*continued*)

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/649/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. The Assembly will now take action on the draft decision, entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to the same?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 70/553 C).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 132.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to thank Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of Nepal and Chair of the Fifth Committee, members of the Bureau, the Secretariat of the Committee and representatives for a job well done.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee before it for this meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.106

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

106th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 28 June 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 112 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/307, decided to conduct the elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council about six months before the elected members assume their responsibilities, beginning at the seventieth session. The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2016.

The five outgoing non-permanent members are the following: Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Those five States cannot be re-elected. Their names should therefore not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include the following States in the year 2017: Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay. The names of those States should therefore also not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in the year 2017, three are from the African and the Asia-Pacific States, one is from the Eastern European States, and one is from the Latin American and the Caribbean States. Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1991 A (XVIII), of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: two from African and Asia-Pacific States, one from Latin American and the Caribbean States, and two from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the two States to be elected from among the African and Asia-Pacific States, one should be from Africa and one from the Asia-Pacific region.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates — their number not to exceed the number of seats to be filled — receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. If the number of candidates obtaining a two-thirds majority is less than the number of members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

Also, consistent with past practice, in case a tied vote should make it necessary to determine the candidate to be elected or proceed to the next round of restricted balloting, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to these procedures?

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It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, the Secretariat has been informed by the Chairpersons of the respective regional groups of the following. For the two vacant seats from among the African and Asia-Pacific States, there are three candidates, namely, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Thailand. Of these three candidates, Ethiopia is an endorsed candidate. For the one vacant seat from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there is one endorsed candidate, namely, the Plurinational State of Bolivia. For the two vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, there are three candidates, namely, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

I should like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the time of the conduct of the election. Please be reminded that during the voting process, all campaigning should cease in the General Assembly Hall. That means in particular that once the meeting has begun, no more campaign material can be distributed inside the Hall. All participants are also requested to remain at their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner. I thank them for their cooperation.

I would also like to remind members of the press not to focus their cameras on delegations during the voting process, taking into account that this is a secret ballot, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. I also thank them for their cooperation.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. In addition, ballot papers will be given only to the delegate seated directly behind the country's nameplate.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Ballot papers marked "A","B" and "C" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed.

I would like to ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asia-Pacific States, the names of the two States for which they wish to vote; on the ballot papers marked "B", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote; and on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Western European and other States, the name of the two States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if none of the names of the Member States on that ballot belong to the relevant region. If a ballot paper of a region includes names of Member States that belong to that region and of Member States that are from outside that region, the ballot remains valid but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Moreno González (Ecuador), Mrs. Kanchaveli (Georgia), Ms. O'Brien (Ireland), Mr. Francis (Lebanon), Mr. Pérez Ayestarán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and Mr. Silwamba (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.55 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asia-Pacific States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
Ethiopia	185
Kazakhstan	113

Thailand	77

Group B — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	8
Number of members voting:	185
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	183
Colombia	1
Cuba	1

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Sweden	134
Netherlands	125
Italy	113
Belgium	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of votes, Ethiopia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Sweden were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2017.

The President: There remain two seats to be filled, one seat from the African and Asia-Pacific States and one seat from the Western European and other States.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that of the two seats allocated to the African and Asia-Pacific States, one should be from the African States and one from the Asia-Pacific States. As Ethiopia has already been elected, the remaining seat among the African and Asia-Pacific States should be filled by one Asia-Pacific State.

We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot. The second round of balloting shall be restricted to States from the African and Asia-Pacific States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Kazakhstan and Thailand, and to the States from among the Western European and other States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Italy and the Netherlands. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A" and "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "A" for the African and Asia-Pacific States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Kazakhstan or Thailand as well as if they contain the name of more than one State. Ballot papers marked "C" for the Western European and other States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Italy or the Netherlands as well as if they contain the name of more than one State.

All participants are also requested to remain at their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Moreno González (Ecuador), Mrs. Kanchaveli (Georgia), Ms. O'Brien (Ireland), Mr. Francis (Lebanon), Mr. Pérez Ayestarán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and Mr. Silwamba (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.15 p.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asia-Pacific States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	193
Required two-thirds majority:	129
Number of votes obtained:	
Kazakhstan	138
Thailand	55

Group C — Western European and other States	
Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Netherlands	99
Italy	92

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the larger number of votes, Kazakhstan was elected a member of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2017.

The President: There remains one seat to be filled, from the Western European and other States. We shall therefore proceed to the second restricted ballot. This third round of balloting shall be restricted to States from among the Western European and other States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the first ballot, namely, Italy and the Netherlands. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "C" for the Western European and other States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Italy or the Netherlands as well as if they contain the name of more than one State.

All participants are also requested to remain at their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Moreno González (Ecuador), Mrs. Kanchaveli (Georgia), Ms. O'Brien (Ireland), Mr. Francis (Lebanon), Mr. Pérez Ayestarán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and Mr. Silwamba (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 1.05 p.m. and resumed at 1.20 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Western European and other States	
Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
Netherlands	96
Italy	94

The President: This restricted ballot has again been inconclusive. In accordance with the rules of procedure, we should continue with a third restricted ballot. However, I propose that we postpone further balloting until 3 p.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.107

General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

107th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 28 June 2016, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 112 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: As members will recall, at its 106th plenary meeting this morning, after three rounds of balloting, including two rounds of restricted balloting, the Assembly elected the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Sweden as members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2017. There remains one seat to be filled from among the Western European and other States. We shall therefore proceed to the third restricted ballot.

This fourth round of balloting shall be restricted to the States from among the Western European and other States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Italy and the Netherlands. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process. Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed. I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "C" for the Western European and other States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Italy or the Netherlands, as well as if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Moreno González (Ecuador), Mrs. Kanchaveli (Georgia), Ms. O'Brien (Ireland), Mr. Francis (Lebanon), Mr. Pérez Ayestarán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and Mr. Silwamba (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.15 p.m. and resumed at 3.45 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Netherlands	96
Italy	95

Since the result of this ballot is inconclusive, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Western European and other States. We must therefore proceed to the first unrestricted ballot. This fifth round of

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balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

I remind the Assembly that any Member State from among the Western European and other States may be a candidate except the outgoing States, States that are already members of the Security Council and the States that were elected this morning. To make this clearer, I shall mention the names of those members that cannot be elected in the present balloting, namely, New Zealand, Spain and Sweden.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "C" the name of the State for Western European and other States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "C" for Western European and other States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of more than one State. Names of Member States on the ballot papers that do not belong to the Western European and other States will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Moreno González (Ecuador), Mrs. Kanchaveli (Georgia), Ms. O'Brien (Ireland), Mr. Francis (Lebanon), Mr. Pérez Ayestarán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and Mr. Silwamba (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
Netherlands	95
Italy	95

The President: Since this unrestricted ballot is inconclusive, I therefore propose that we suspend the meeting for 20 minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.

The President: I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Albert Koenders, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Mr. Koenders (Netherlands): First of all, I would like to express my thanks to all delegations for their patience.

The signal sent by the Assembly this afternoon has been quite clear, and I think it was reflected in the last vote, with 95 votes for Italy and 95 votes for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. That means there is a clear message that the Assembly appreciates both our countries in representing it in the Security Council. Therefore, my colleague, Mr. Gentiloni, and I would like to put forward a proposal, subject to the full endorsement of the Group of Western European and other States, to split the term. That is to say that Italy would be in the Council for the period from 2017 to 2018 and the Netherlands in the subsequent year from 2018 to 2019. Once such an endorsement has been reached, I propose that you, Mr. President, put forward a procedure for the resumption of voting.

In closing, I would like to mention, on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and my colleagues in this Hall — the Prime Ministers of Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten — that we are extremely grateful for the significant support we have received from all delegations during our campaign in our fight for peace, justice and development. In that context and in view of the voting this afternoon, we have discussed this with our Italian colleague and we are looking forward to possible approval of our proposal.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

Mr. Gentiloni (Italy): I confirm, on behalf of the Republic of Italy, what my colleague and friend Mr. Albert Koenders just said. First of all, I thank all delegations for their patience and support. I think it was an interesting day because of this competition.

We wanted to send a message of unity between two European countries, so we took the opportunity of this

perfect parity — 95 to 95 — to agree on a proposal that sends such a message of unity. Under that proposal, we would serve one year each in the Security Council. The formal implementation of our agreement will be submitted soon to the Group of Western European and other States. It would be an honour for Italy to serve in the Security Council in 2017 and to cooperate with the Netherlands serving in 2018.

I just want to finish by saying that it was a difficult competition, as the results have shown, but from the Italian point of view it was an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen relations with all countries. The competitive election had many negative aspects, but it had one extraordinary positive aspect in that it gave us an opportunity to get to know the entire United Nations membership better. This is what we have gained from this opportunity.

I thank everybody very much and hope that this agreement will be a good example of a possible resolution to the difficult situation that we have had with this vote.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Norway as Chair of the Group of Western European and other States.

Ms. Stener (Norway): As you said, Mr. President, I am taking the floor in Norway's capacity as Chair of the Group of Western European and other States, and the information I am giving is for this regional group. We will call a meeting of the Western European and other States tomorrow at 10 a.m. to follow up on the statements just made by the Foreign Ministers of the Netherlands and Italy. We will come back to the Western European and other States members with more precise information via e-mail as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.108

General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

108th plenary meeting
Thursday, 30 June 2016, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session

The President: Before we proceed to consider the items on our agenda for this afternoon, it is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, who passed away on 22 June. On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to convey our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda and to the bereaved family of Mr. Ashe.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: Mr. Ashe was a friend and colleague of many here in the Hall. He was a leading Caribbean diplomat who was deeply involved in international affairs for over 35 years. He was a faithful servant of his country and a member of the Diplomatic Service of Antigua and Barbuda since 1989. His career saw him embark on a journey from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, and finally to the Summit to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) last September.

He was centrally involved in a range of multilateral processes, chairing the Fifth Committee, chairing the Group of 77 and China and serving on the governing bodies of major United Nations funds and programmes. He served as Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations for over 10 years. His passion for progress on matters of poverty, inequality and environmental degradation was immense. And his drive during the sixty-eighth session for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda was critical. Indeed, perhaps his finest achievement will not be felt for decades to come. It was under his stewardship that the ground-breaking proposal from the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was brought forward from the sixty-eighth to the sixty-ninth session, and ultimately into the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

Once again, I wish to convey my sincere sympathies to the delegation and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Ashe's many friends and former colleagues and, of course, Mr Ashe's wife and two children, who last week lost a husband and a father at the young age of 61.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

The Secretary-General: I extend sincere condolences to the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda on the passing away of His Excellency Ambassador John William Ashe.

Ambassador Ashe was based in New York for more than 25 years. During that time, he served in many important positions. He was Chair of the negotiations

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during the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as Chair of the 2004 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Alongside the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, he was co-Chair of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. He was also the consensus candidate of all 33 Member States of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries to serve as President of the of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, from September 2013 to September 2014. His service during that very challenging year coincided with notable gains towards a future development agenda and set of development goals, as well as important new steps in the fight against climate change. Those efforts reached fruition a year later with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

At this time of sorrow, my thoughts are with Ambassador Ashe's family, particularly his wife, Anilla Cherian, his two children and all others touched by this loss.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to representative of Bulgaria, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

It is with sadness that we learned about the untimely passing away of His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. On behalf of the members of the Group of Eastern European States, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. John Ashe and to the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Ambassador Ashe dedicated more than 23 years of his professional career to the United Nations. As the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, he was an active and prominent negotiator. He was co-Chair of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. He also served as Chair of the Group of 77 and China and took part in many important multilateral negotiations. True to his passion for sustainable development, during his tenure as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, Ambassador Ashe spared no effort to achieve progress in that area.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with the family and friends of Ambassador Ashe.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Zambia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Ms. Kasese-Bota (Zambia): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of African States.

The African Group received with great sadness and shock the news of the sudden death of our colleague and former President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe. The African Group extends its deepest condolences to the Ashe family, the Caribbean community and wider United Nations family for his untimely loss and death.

Ambassador Ashe left a long, indelible list of legacies for us at the United Nations during his remarkable career in the service of both his country and the international community. The African Group in particular had great respect for his intellect and firm commitment to sustainable development, as was evidenced by the strong leadership and clear direction that he provided on setting the course for defining the post-2015 development agenda.

Ambassador Ashe will also be remembered for the decisive, broad and practical steps he took to inject fresh impetus in the discussions on the complex and sensitive question of Security Council reform. The African Group believes that there is no better tribute to the memory of Ambassador Ashe than that of a steadfast commitment to collectively advance our common quest to serve succeeding generations and leaving no one behind on the path of sustainable development.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Mr. Okamura (Japan): I have the great honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States at this solemn gathering of the General Assembly.

We are deeply saddened by the demise of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth

session, His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe. It is well known that Ambassador Ashe had a long and successful record of working for sustainable development, especially at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. He also served in a number of leading positions addressing climate change.

Ambassador Ashe also had a long career and wide range of experience here in New York, especially as Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations from 2004 until 2013. In September 2013, he assumed the position of President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

On this solemn occasion, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, I wish to convey my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Ashe. It is our strong belief that they have the strength to come to terms to with his sudden death and to continue to move forward towards the future.

May his soul rest in peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Barbados, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Marshall (Barbados): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), it is a sombre honour for me to pay tribute to the life of His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and former Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations. Like all others who knew him, members of the GRULAC family were shocked at his untimely and tragic passing away exactly one week ago.

A veteran diplomat with 27 years' experience, Ambassador Ashe possessed a thorough grasp of the multilateral arena. He served in a leadership capacity in numerous processes, committees and other entities of the Organization — a reflection of his competence and skill. Among many other roles, in 2004 he was elected Chair of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the first policy session in the post-Johannesburg era of the Commission. He chaired the Group of 77 and China in 2008. He co-chaired the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and presided over the Executive Boards of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Ambassador Ashe's passion for sustainable development undergirded much of the work that he undertook at the United Nations. We remember his commitment to the negotiation of a transformative and ambitious global development agenda, one that would protect our planet for future generations and create equity, justice and prosperity for all. We recall his dedication to the revitalization and reform of the United Nations, and in particular to advancing progress on Security Council reform.

We mourn the loss of a colleague and friend. On behalf of GRULAC, I extend sincere condolences to Mrs. Ashe, their sons, Rohan and Arman, other members of his family and friends.

May he rest in peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Norway, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Ms. Stener (Norway): On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, I extend to the people and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda our deepest condolences on the death of the former President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe.

Mr. Ashe is remembered for his extensive diplomatic career representing Antigua and Barbuda and through various positions and leadership roles at the United Nations, where he championed sustainable development, in particular for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. In 2013 and 2014, Ambassador Ashe served as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

The members of the Western European and other States Group offer their sympathies and condolences to his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Suriname, who will speak on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

Mrs. Sweeb (Suriname): I have the sad honour to address the General Assembly today on behalf of the 14 member States of the Caribbean Community

(CARICOM) at this solemn gathering to pay tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John William Ashe, President of this organ at its sixty-eighth session and former Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations.

We are shaken by the news of the untimely and tragic passing away of Ambassador Ashe, on 22 June. CARICOM expresses its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for presiding over the General Assembly's tribute to Ambassador Ashe, one of our own and an extraordinary diplomat who had deep respect for the principles of multilateralism. Known for his calm demeanour and determination, Ambassador Ashe was exemplary in accepting responsibilities entrusted to him by the international community and for ensuring that concrete results were achieved in the interests of the Organization and the world.

Ambassador Ashe often quoted the saying "No man is an island". That encapsulated his view that global challenges should not be faced unilaterally but globally. He had particular passion for the cause of sustainable development and protecting the environment. During his tenure as President of the Assembly, he urged all stakeholders to work together to set the stage for the new universal global agenda for sustainable development.

Ambassador Ashe's diplomatic track record is truly remarkable, and his achievements manyfold, as he played a key role in securing consensus in a wide range of international negotiations, ranging from climate change to persistent pollutants. He was indeed at the forefront of international efforts to address the adverse effects of climate change. He summed up that matter as follows.

> "We have only the planet we live on, and if we are to leave it in a reasonable state for the next generation, the quest for a safer, cleaner and more equitable world is one that should consume us all".

Ambassador Ashe was also the first Chair of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol and Chair of the Convention's subsidiary body on implementation. We furthermore recall his chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China in 2008, the largest negotiation block of developing countries in the United Nations, and also his role as co-Chair of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. His dedication to South-South cooperation as the Chair of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation was unquestionable. It was also during the presidency of Ambassador Ashe, a son of the Caribbean region, that the winning design of the Permanent Memorial in Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was unveiled.

In my capacity as current Chair of the Caribbean Community caucus in New York, and on behalf of all colleagues and friends from the Caribbean, I convey our deepest and sincere condolences to Mrs. Ashe, their sons, Rohan and Arman, and the family and friends of the late Ambassador John William Ashe. The CARICOM region has indeed lost one of its great sons.

May his soul rest in peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr. Webson (Antigua and Barbuda): I would like, first of all, to thank you, Mr. President, on behalf of the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for holding this solemn ceremony this afternoon in honour and as a tribute to our brother who has fallen and who served both our country, Antigua and Barbuda, and the United Nations. I would like also to express our thanks for the many kind words, good wishes and condolences expressed by so many to myself, the people and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Ashe family.

We are gathered today at this solemn ceremony to reflect upon and recognize the contribution of one who has fallen. We recognize the significant contribution of Mr. John William Ashe for over three decades to both his country and this institution. Some may say that Mr. Ashe was a towering figure. Some may even say that he was a larger-than-life individual as he walked and contributed within the walls of this institution. His contribution to multilateralism and his great grasp of the issues that affect our world today were significant.

Mr. Ashe started his remarkable 27-year career as a diplomat first as a scientific attaché to the Antigua Government. He transcended nation and worked on behalf of all. His significant contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, which began that process, stands out. I can list a litany of his accomplishments, many of which everyone has heard. Permit me to mention just a few that perhaps stand out above all.

His leadership in many of the bodies of the United Nations showed courage and bravery, as he demonstrated an appetite for change and reform.

Who can forget his leadership at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as he worked towards change and a new vision for the United Nations and the world? His courageous work on climate change and sustainable development is a legacy that has left us with the seminal outcome of 2015, which many of our leaders signed in September of that year. His work on sustainable development and climate change was crowned by the Paris Agreement and the its signing of only a few months ago. I could go on.

We in the Caribbean Community were particularly proud that Mr. Ashe was with us last April when the Permanent Memorial in Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was unveiled, reflective of his own ancestors and heritage.

Despite his significant international accomplishments, I must inform the Assembly that Mr. Ashe was more than that. He was a father, and I am told by his wife that he was a very good father. He was a husband — and, yes, I was told by his wife that he was a very good husband. He was a community person. He gave much of his time to teach and tutor young boys in his community in mathematics, science and other subjects. He coached his son's football team, and I understand that the team will be honouring him this coming season by using his initials on their helmets.

Mr. Ashe came from humble beginnings in Antiga, but he proved that it is not where one starts, but the race one runs. It is the contribution that one makes along life's journey. He proved that outstretching a helping hand to others, as he did so often as a friend and colleague, was the indelible mark that he truly left.

While we mourn the loss, a loss is never forever. For mortality is held as a monument in one's life by the lives one affects along the way. John Ashe's mortality and monument will be the memories that he has left with so many of us and the hand print that he has left on the changing United Nations.

The people of Antigua and the family of John Ashe thank the Assembly as we mourn the loss of a brother.

Agenda item 112 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: As Members will recall, at its 106th plenary meeting on 28 June, the Assembly elected the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Sweden as members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2017. Members will also recall that, when the 107th plenary meeting was adjourned on the afternoon of 28 June, and following five rounds of balloting, including three rounds of restricted balloting, there remained one seat to be filled from the Group of Western European and other States.

I would first like to draw the attention of members to a letter dated 29 June from the representative of Norway, in her capacity as the Chair of the Group of Western European and other States for the month of June, circulated in document A/70/964. In her letter, the representative of Norway announces that the Netherlands has withdrawn its candidacy in favour of Italy, and that Italy is the endorsed and only candidate of the Group of Western European and other States.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the next round of balloting by secret ballot. This sixth round of balloting, which is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, will also be the second unrestricted ballot.

May I remind the Assembly that any Member State from among the Group of Western European and other States may be a candidate except those outgoing members, those already members of the Security Council, as well as the member elected at the 106th plenary meeting. To make this clear, I shall now mention the names of those members that cannot be voted for in the present balloting, namely, France, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "C" for Western European and other States the name of one State for which they want to vote. Ballot papers will be declared invalid if they contain the name of more than one State. The name of a Member State on the ballot paper that does not belong to the Group of Western European and other States will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Moreno González (Ecuador), Mrs. Kanchaveli (Georgia), Ms. O'Brien (Ireland), Mr. Francis (Lebanon), Mr. Pérez Ayestarán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and Mr. Silwamba (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	6
Number of Members present and voting:	184
Required two-thirds majority:	123
Number of votes obtained:	
Italy	179
Netherlands	4
San Marino	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of votes, the following State is elected member of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2017: Italy.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): I wish very briefly to express our very sincere thanks to the membership. I also thank my friend and colleague, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Karel van Oosterom, for his support and for having understood and accepted the agreement that Italy reached with the Netherlands, which was endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States, to divide the two-year term in the Security Council. The Netherlands very gallantly withdrew from the ballot, and Italy will do the same next year.

Together with my colleague Karel, we have worked for this objective in a spirit of cooperation between two European Union members at a moment in which the cohesion of the Union is of great importance. Of course, our political leaders have done the same. We both wish to assure the membership that we will work together with all Member States for the good of the Organization and for an efficient Security Council that is able to tackle the difficult challenges we are all facing, in a spirit of true cooperation and transparency.

Again, I thank the Assembly for its support, as well as on behalf of the Netherlands.

The President: I congratulate Italy on its election to the Security Council. I also thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

Before concluding our consideration of this agenda item, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 68/307, of 10 September 2014, the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council for the term 2018-2019 will take place during the resumed part of the next session in the spring of 2017.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 112.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/70/674, A/70/826 and A/70/826/Corr. 1)

The President: The tragic events in Istanbul this week have reminded us of the threats and dangers posed by terrorism in our world today. Once again, those left behind are in mourning, and I wish to take this opportunity to convey my sincere condolences to the people and the Government of Turkey for their painful loss. The senseless killing of innocent civilians by terrorist acts has become all too frequent the past few years. It demands a response from the international community that is both commensurate with the challenge we face and focused on both the short- and the long-term perspective. Through much closer cooperation, we must redouble our efforts to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

In that context, the consultations on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy have given us a unique opportunity to discuss how to make

the United Nations more relevant, more credible, more legitimate and more capable in responding to terrorism. During this discussion, we will look at the latest challenges that we must face as an international community in this area and how better to respond to these criminal and unjustifiable acts, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever they are committed. Together in this Hall, we must discharge our mandate as a competent organ with universal membership to address the issue of international terrorism.

We celebrate this year the tenth anniversary of the Strategy. Ten years ago, we expressed our commitment to take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in a decisive, unified, coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner. We all agree that the acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. They threaten the territorial integrity and security of States and peoples and destabilize legitimately constituted Governments.

In these past years, we have been alarmed by the acts of intolerance and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and violence, including sectarian violence and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction, displace people and divide communities. To all the victims of the senseless violence, we offer our solidarity and support. For in this year, I call upon the entire Assembly to also offer to our peoples a commitment to concrete action to keep the Strategy relevant and contemporary in the light of emerging new threats and evolving trends in this area.

We can include a commitment not to let our differences prevent us from reaching consensus on the importance of our actions to tackle these heinous acts and to provide the proper framework for our common action. I wish to recognize the commitment and flexibility shown by all delegations during the negotiations on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review. I call on all of the members of the Assembly to renew efforts in that regard. We cannot allow ourselves to send the message of disunity to the world when our peoples and our community of nations face such a grave challenge.

I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his commitment and leadership on this topic, and in particular for his initiative and Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. That Plan has allowed Member States to engage in a fundamental conversation about how to prevent those whose message of intolerance — religious, cultural, social — has had drastic consequences for many regions of the world and has challenged our shared values of peace, justice and human rights.

Finally, I want to warmly thank the co-facilitators — the Permanent Representatives of Iceland and Argentina — and their legal experts for tirelessly working for a consensus draft resolution. Their commitment, efforts and leadership should allow us to agree on an outcome that sends a common message from the international community on this critical subject. Doing so will enable the United Nations to continue to improve its response to new and evolving threats to international peace and security, to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), the pursuit of the rule of law and the realization of human rights going forward. I thank them.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly and the co-facilitators — Ambassador Martín Garcia Moritán and Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson, the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the Permanent Representative of Iceland, respectively — for their hard work in steering this fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I have been closely following the negotiations on draft resolution A/70/L.55, and I have to admit that I am profoundly disappointed that this year of all years might be the one that does not see the adoption of a consensus draft resolution. All Member States agree that international terrorism is affecting them at unprecedented levels and that it requires our concerted action. People the world over look to us to act with unity and resolve to address this major scourge of our time.

The urgent necessity of tackling and preventing terrorism has been brought home to us once again this week in the most tragic and horrific way. The terrorist attack at Istanbul airport is an attack on all of us, on our most fundamental values and on our solidarity and unity of purpose. I express my deepest condolences to everyone affected — the families, friends, colleagues of those killed and injured — and to the Government and the people of Turkey.

This review marks the tenth anniversary of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Important shifts have occurred in the global terrorism landscape since the adoption of the Strategy by consensus in 2006. While there has been important progress in its implementation, the Strategy has encountered unforeseen challenges.

The spread of poisonous violent extremist ideologies through modern information technologies, our limited success in preventing new conflicts, the easy availability of arms, the flow of foreign terrorist fighters across borders and heightened media attention have all contributed to creating an environment where terrorists have taken control of vast swaths of territory, resources and populations. The result is a vortex of protracted conflicts, ungoverned spaces and terrorism.

Terrorism transcends cultures and geographical boundaries. It cannot be associated with any one religion, nationality or ethnic group. It affects all countries.

Violent extremists and terrorists are posing a direct assault on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and undermining efforts to maintain peace and security, foster sustainable development, promote respect for human rights and deliver vital humanitarian aid.

We are at an important juncture. We need to take tough decisions and make difficult choices, while staying true to the commitments we have made under the Strategy across all four of its pillars.

Military and security measures have their rightful place. However, as leaders of Governments and institutions, we must ensure that our responses are fully consistent with our commitments under the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law.

Protecting human rights and respecting the rule of law while countering terrorism is not only a matter of principle. It is also essential to the legitimacy and efficacy of counter-terrorist measures. When we fail to uphold the values that unite us, we end up fuelling the grievances that can lead to terrorism.

As I said in my Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, we need to take a more systematic, preventive approach to address the drivers of violent extremism. This lies at the heart of my call to Member States to develop national plans of action, with the support of the United Nations where and when requested.

Terrorists not only shed the blood of civilians, but divide and polarize our societies. This is a leadership challenge. We must never be ruled by fear. We must refrain from assigning collective guilt to whole communities and religions.

I am concerned about the growing drift in many countries and regions towards bigotry, anti-Muslim hatred, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia and outright racism. Terrorist groups are exploiting these negative trends and using them as a recruitment tool. We have a fundamental moral duty to oppose all forms of discrimination and exclusion, and to denounce such demagoguery, which in the past has led to unspeakable horrors. We have to build societies in which all legitimate human expressions have a place — societies that include, rather than exclude. The only responsible answer to provocation and incitement is shared resolve to uphold universal values. The General Assembly is the forum to forge and reinforce a global consensus in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

In the face of the rapidly evolving global nature of the threat, the basic tenets of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy are even more relevant than they were 10 years ago. Now more than ever, we need strong and effective international cooperation at the bilateral, regional, interregional and global levels, and balanced implementation across all four pillars.

The time has come to fully and comprehensively implement the Global Strategy. I therefore hope that the focus will be on implementing the commitments we have made through collective action. While Member States bear the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Global Strategy, the United Nations system stands ready to provide strong, well-coordinated support, particularly through its Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which has the main responsibility for coordination and coherence in this critical area.

If we want to make real and sustained impact on the ground, we will need to mobilize the necessary resources. However, apart from a generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, few new resources have been provided to the United Nations, while demand has risen exponentially. No amount of coordination by the United Nations can make an impact without sufficient resources.

I would like to conclude by remembering the thousands of victims of terrorism over the past 10 years.

The pain, suffering and loss of so many men, women and children peacefully going about their lives is a tragedy for us all. We have an urgent moral duty to do all we can to prevent and end this carnage. Taking collective preventive action against terrorism, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, is the only way to secure peace and prosperity for succeeding generations.

In conclusion I appeal to the Assembly to show the world its resolve by acting in unison and adopting the draft resolution by consensus.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

In view of the ongoing negotiations on draft resolution A/70/L.55, on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, I propose to hold the debate on this item tomorrow morning, Friday, 1 July.

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 117.

Agenda items 15 and 116 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/70/L.54)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered agenda items 15 and 116 at its 4th plenary meeting, on 25 September 2015, and adopted resolution 70/1 under those items. Members will also recall that the Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda items 15, 116 and 123 at its 52nd plenary meeting, on 13 November 2015. Members will further recall that, under agenda items 15 and 116, the Assembly adopted decision 70/539, at its 81st plenary meeting, and resolution 70/262, at its 93rd plenary meeting, on 22 December 2015 and 27 April 2016, respectively.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/70/L.54.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.54, entitled "High-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants". In this connection, I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to the statement regarding programme budget implications contained in document A/70/967.

The Fifth Committee will examine during the main part of the seventy-first session of the Assembly the revised estimate arising from the draft resolution and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon. Consequently, the financial provisions as appropriate will be considered as an additional budget appropriation to be approved by the Assembly for the biennium 2016 to 2017.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.54?

Draft resolution A/70/L.54 was adopted (resolution 70/290).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 15 and 116.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.109

General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

109th plenary meeting
Friday, 1 July 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 114 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(e) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences

Note by the Secretary-General (A/70/107)

The President: Members will recall that, at its 50th and 82nd plenary meetings, held on 9 November and 23 December 2015, respectively, the General Assembly took note of the appointments of Ghana, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hungary and Liberia as members of the Committee on Conferences for a period of three years, beginning on 1 January 2016. Members will also recall that two seats from among the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and one seat from among the Group of Western European and other States for a period beginning on the date of appointment and ending on 31 December 2018 remain vacant. On the recommendation of the Chair of the Group of Western European and other States, I have appointed Germany as member of the Committee on Conferences for a term of office beginning on the date of appointment and ending on 31 December 2018.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of this appointment?

It was so decided.

The President: With regard to the remaining two seats from among the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I urge the Group to submit its candidatures as soon as possible.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 114.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/70/674, A/70/826 and A/70/826/Corr.1)

Draft resolution (A/70/L.55)

The President: I wish to inform Members that I have been advised by the Permanent Representative of Argentina, His Excellency Mr. Martín Garcia Moritán, and by His Excellency Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, in their capacities as co-facilitators of the fifth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, that the consultation process concluded with an agreement on draft resolution A/70/L.55, which now enjoys broad consensus. I circulated the text to the membership today and, subject to the programme budget implications review, I intend to present the draft resolution for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly at its 110th plenary meeting, to be held this afternoon, under the agenda item 117, entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy".

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

16-20365 (E)

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I wish to thank the co-facilitators for their hard work, commitment and leadership, and all delegations for their constructive engagement throughout this important process. During the current tenth anniversary of the Strategy, the General Assembly will be able to send a unified message of commitment by taking the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in a decisive, coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner.

We shall now continue with the remaining speakers on the list for this item.

I give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mrs. Jenny (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

International terrorism continues to pose a highly significant threat to global peace and security. The past two years have served to further illustrate the rapid developments within the structures, personnel and techniques of violent extremists and terrorist groups. Terrorism has become more diffuse and pervasive. While old threats remain, new threats and vulnerabilities have developed. There is a need to adapt our response and take into consideration the implications drawn from recent terrorist attacks.

Once again, we welcome the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which constitutes a clear and balanced tool to help States in their efforts to prevent violent extremism. Most of the Plan's content reflects what the EU has been working on for more than a decade. The EU and its member States very much welcome the Secretary-General's strategic approach to place a sharp focus on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, particularly as we celebrate this year the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The phenomenon of radicalization turning into violent extremism can be best contained at a level closest to vulnerable individuals and in the most affected communities, through engagement with non-governmental organizations, front-line workers, women and civil society organizations, including victims' groups, as well as local authorities, academics, schools, law enforcement and security officials. Education and youth exchanges are areas that provide young people a unique opportunity to think critically about extremists' views and discourses and to expose the flaws of such propaganda. The United Nations system can play a significant role in bringing those different actors together.

The biennial review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a valuable indicator for Member States to detect implementation gaps. Nonetheless, two years is a very short period to implement long-term counter-terrorism strategies and action plans. For the future, therefore, we suggest the full reconsideration of both the implementation of the Strategy and review cycle, including through regular needs assessment reports, to ensure that the United Nations has a contemporary response to the ever-changing nature of terrorism. The EU and its member States stand ready to play an active role in that respect.

We would like to thank Argentina and Iceland for serving as co-facilitators of draft resolution A/70/L.55, to be adopted later today. It was not an easy task. We acknowledge the positive elements of the draft resolution. In particular, the document rightly recalls resolution 70/254, which welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General and took note of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, and it rightly recommends that Member States consider the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Plan. We also welcome the important substantial references in the draft resolution to the role of women and youth; to addressing the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and their return; to tackling the financing of terrorism; and to the issue of radicalization in prisons.

We also welcome the reference in the draft resolution to the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and to law enforcement and criminal justice authorities. Importantly, the draft resolution stresses the importance of national criminal justice systems based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The draft resolution also includes important provisions on the need to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction; on preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit use of small arms and light weapons by terrorists; and on the need for the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)

to give further attention to the issue of improvised explosive devices.

But we also need to be aware that the draft resolution to be adopted does not address some important issues in the way we would have expected. At the outset of the negotiations, we made it very clear that the States Members of the United Nations needed to reflect upon the core functions that we wanted the United Nations to perform with regard to counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism. We called for a frank assessment of what the United Nations was doing well — threat assessment, monitoring the implementation of resolutions, identifying needs and gaps and facilitating capacity-building — and what could be improved — internal and external coordination, strategic orientation and external communications. We should have looked at how we could fill those gaps in the current architecture so that the United Nations could assume its central role and deliver an "All-of-United Nations" approach. Unfortunately, the draft resolution does not reflect an ambitious vision in that regard, and we regret it.

In addition, the tenth anniversary represented a good opportunity to better structure the review draft resolution in order to make our work more visible and accessible to actors outside of the United Nations and to highlight new trends. As respect for universal human rights and the rule of law are the fundamental bases of the fight against terrorism — and essential to all components of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy — the EU would have welcomed more ambitious language relating to that important pillar in the draft resolution. It could have said more with regard to paying greater attention to abuses of human rights and about terrorist violence against persons belonging to religious minorities, particularly in the Middle East, that may constitute crimes against humanity, genocide or war crimes.

Moreover, we would have liked to have seen greater emphasis in the draft resolution on the assistance to victims of terrorism and their families, which is a key part of the EU counter-terrorism efforts. The EU aims to enhance the representation of victims' interests at EU-level and to raise awareness among European citizens in order to strengthen European solidarity with victims of terrorism. Victims of terrorism have an important place in the Radicalization Awareness Network, with a subgroup specifically devoted to the voices of victims of terrorism. The web portal for victims created by the CTITF is also an important initiative to raise global awareness and to assist Member States with assistance programmes for victims and their families.

Countering the financing of terrorism is another key component of the counter-terrorism strategy. In that regard, we regret that the draft resolution does not mention the role of the Financial Action Task Force. Cooperation with the private sector and sharing financial intelligence and information on investigations are areas where the EU and its member States concentrate efforts. In order to close the existing knowledge gap, and in line with Security Council resolution 2199 (2015) — which, inter alia, in its paragraph 16, notes with concern the generation of income by some terrorist groups through the looting and smuggling of cultural heritage items from sites in Iraq and Syria — the EU will continue to take a proactive stance against that lucrative method of raising funds by identifying best practices and integrally tracking financial flows, including those from off-shore jurisdictions. We are committed to the work carried out by the Financial Action Task Force to ensure that the arsenal of available tools to tackle terrorist financing is used to its full potential.

Deepening the international consensus and enhancing international efforts to combat terrorism continue to be key objectives for the EU and its member States. Therefore, we fully support the United Nations key role in the prevention of, and the fight against, violent extremism and terrorism in full compliance with international law and human rights. We are committed to support the United Nations and an international system based on the rule of law and human rights. We will continue to strongly support international counter-terrorism cooperation and the promotion of United Nations standards on counter-terrorism, particularly where the protection of human rights and the promotion of the rule of law is the cornerstone.

The EU and its member States are willing to share their experience and expertise in this field, in particular with regard to human rights considerations in the field of counter-terrorism assistance. Our objective is to assist countries through capacity-building in the areas of the rule of law, criminal justice and law enforcement and the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. That requires, first and foremost, political consensus among our partners. We intend to do so as a member of other relevant international organizations, in particular the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), which was established

to assist the United Nations in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Because the United Nations cannot, and should not, have to go at it alone, we call upon the United Nations system and all Member States to continue and enhance cooperation with the GCTF and other relevant international organizations.

The EU and its States members fully agree with the Secretary-General's report (A/70/826) that the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) — particularly Sustainable Development Goal 16, on building peaceful, just and inclusive societies — will further contribute to our efforts to address one of the key conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The EU therefore promotes a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism.

Community engagement is also a significant tool in combating the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes. Extremist material and propaganda are easily accessible online through discussion sites. Therefore, in support of the Secretary-General's recommendation, we must cooperate closely with civil society and the private sector to address challenges faced online, while upholding the right to privacy and the freedom of speech.

Last Tuesday, the European Council welcomed the new European Union global strategy for our foreign and security policy, presented by the High Representative. The strategy highlights the fact that the EU will live up to its values, internally and externally. That is the strongest antidote we have at our disposal against violent extremism and terrorism.

Let me conclude by stressing that, more than ever, we need to remain united in our efforts to establish a strong front against all forms and manifestations of terrorism and violent extremism. In our joint efforts, we must ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The terrorist attacks that took place at the Istanbul airport this week remind us of how terrorism and violent extremism t is conducive to terrorism continues to undermine our shared objective of a peaceful and prosperous world. The tenth anniversary of the consensus adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its fifth review offer us an opportunity to renew our collective, unwavering resolve to combat this scourge. In that spirit, the OIC looks forward to the adoption of draft resolution A/70/L.55 by consensus as another step forward in promoting the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at national, regional and international levels. We thank the co-facilitators — Ambassador Garcia Moritán of Argentina and Ambassador Gunnarsson of Iceland, and their able team — for their tireless work in achieving a consensus-based text.

The draft resolution encompasses our concerns about certain emerging threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism that are conducive to terrorism, and suggests appropriate remedial measures. It underscores the need for addressing all local and external drivers of terrorism and violent extremism. Without taking a selective approach, the OIC reaffirms the need to make concerted and determined efforts to effectively address the root causes, drivers and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including preventing the unlawful use of force and aggression and ending foreign occupation, unilateral coercive measures and political and economic and social injustice.

The draft resolution underlines the need for enhanced synergy and effectiveness in the various United Nations entities' work on counter-terrorism and requests the Secretary-General to offer further concrete suggestions to that effect by the middle of next year for consideration by Member States. In that context, the OIC stresses that transparency and coordination of the activities of United Nations counter-terrorism entities should be enhanced and that duplication should be avoided. While the OIC supports institutional coherence in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, we also emphasize the need to conform to the mandates of the various United Nations organs and entities.

The OIC recognizes the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and strongly encourages it to continue working with the same diligence and to keep Member States updated on its work. The OIC also notes with appreciation the important work carried out by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and its role in building the capacity of Member States in countering terrorism. In that regard, the OIC calls on all Member States to continue to support the Centre and to contribute to its growth into a centre of excellence.

The OIC member States encourage the CTITF and other relevant United Nations entities to enhance their consultations with Member States during the planning and preparation phase of their activities. The OIC particularly stresses the need for further analytical information in the Secretary-General's reports on the resources required for providing capacity-building support to Member States in compliance with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We wish to see concrete proposals on mobilizing resources for capacity-building projects to counter terrorism, as well as the proposed terms of reference for the Secretary-General's fund to support innovative projects aimed at preventing violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, as was mentioned in his Plan of Action.

The OIC recognizes the draft resolution's added emphasis on addressing various aspects and dimensions of terrorist threats. Those include, although are not limited to, the need for enhanced international cooperation concerning the recruitment, movement, prosecution and repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters; effective multi-pronged action to combat terrorist financing and its nexus with transnational organized crime; informed and pragmatic steps to counter terrorist propaganda and narratives, including through the Internet; and heightened surveillance and preventive measures against terrorists gaining access to small arms and light weapons, as well as weapons of mass of destruction. The OIC member States remain committed to working together with the United Nations and other relevant partners to address those real and potential threats in a focused and results-oriented manner.

The OIC notes that threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism vis-à-vis women, youth and children were also recognized, given the emphasis that the draft resolution places on effectively addressing those threats. In that regard, we stress that sustained engagement is required to enable women and youth to act as potential agents of change and resilience in order to prevent violent extremism within their respective communities. The OIC member States urge that the rights and protection of migrants and asylum seekers should also be safeguarded, while ensuring that internationally agreed norms and standards in their favour are not abused by terrorists.

The OIC reiterates its principled position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. Accordingly, the OIC reaffirms its unequivocal rejection of all attempts to associate any country, race, religion, culture or nationality with terrorism and violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism. The group also underlines the importance of upholding international law, international humanitarian law, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

In that context, we remain concerned about the growing intolerance and discrimination directed against Muslims throughout the world, which we believe constitutes an affront to their human rights and dignity. We recall the Human Rights Council resolution entitled "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief" as an important tool to counter radicalization, marginalization and alienation. We call for its effective implementation by the international community as a means to deprive terrorist groups of any justification for violent extremism on the grounds of ethno-religious stigmatization and discrimination. We underscore the importance of interfaith and intercultural dialogue as an effective mechanism to combat extremism and incitement to hatred based on religion.

The OIC member States reaffirm the importance that the group attaches to the sustained, effective and comprehensive implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the need for a robust follow-up mechanism to be in place to ensure the balanced pursuit of all its four pillars. The OIC stresses that the implementation of the Strategy lies, first and foremost, in the hands of Member States, while the General Assembly has a central role to play in following up its implementation.

In conclusion, the OIC reiterates that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a living document that should be examined and reviewed regularly. The group will continue to remain involved in that endeavour as a matter of priority, including at the highest political level.

Mr. Barriga (Liechtenstein): At the outset, I would like to express our sincere condolences to all those affected by the recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul. Indeed, hardly a day passes without news of another atrocious terrorist attack somewhere in the world, from areas affected by armed conflict to major cities thought to be peaceful. We declare our solidarity with the victims of terrorism everywhere and strongly condemn all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever

and by whomever committed. We also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies and the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We strongly believe that the General Assembly must continue to play a key role in shaping the work of the United Nations to combat terrorism, along with the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

In that context, we would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the Permanent Representative Iceland for their hard work in steering the consultations on the review of the Strategy.

An important aspect of the Strategy is the balance among its four pillars, namely, addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, capacity-building and respect for human rights and the rule of law. All four pillars must be implemented evenly by States and by the United Nations. In practice, however, that is often not the case. In particular, measures to ensure the respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism are often just an afterthought, at best. At worst, counter-terrorism operations are undertaken without due regard for the rights of innocent civilians and, in some cases, civilian populations are even targeted for political reasons.

Governments actively involved in combating terrorism must ensure that they do not unwittingly contribute to outcomes that betray the values that we all seek to uphold. Overly broad domestic definitions of terrorism may threaten the right to freedom of expression and association. Mass surveillance, both domestically and abroad, may undermine the right to privacy. Law enforcement and military operations often walk a fine line between the legitimate targeting of terrorists, on the one hand, and the unacceptable risks for innocent civilians, on the other. Governments must scrupulously abide by the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality in their actions — principles that underpin both human rights law and international humanitarian law. That is also an important responsibility for the United Nations. As we move towards more effective assistance and capacity-building for States, assistance providers must pay the utmost attention to ensure that human rights are fully integrated into their activities.

Our greatest challenge remains pillar I, namely, measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Many of those conditions are at the very core of what the United Nations is supposed to address, whether in a counter-terrorism context or not — unresolved conflicts, the lack of the rule of law, violations of human rights, discrimination and exclusion, socioeconomic marginalization and so on. The state of our response to global terrorism therefore also reflects on the States of the United Nations as a whole. If we want to do more than just fight the symptoms of terrorism, then we need true commitment by all Member States to cooperate fully in all the relevant United Nations organs. It requires in particular greater cooperation in the Security Council, which has been unable to effectively address a number of violent conflicts, partly due to the threat or use of the veto. It also requires a greater sense of urgency and willingness to take bold decisions in the General Assembly and in the Human Rights Council.

The importance of the human rights also requires the United Nations to lead by example in areas where it undertakes concrete measures to prevent and combat terrorism. In that regard, we commend once again the progress made by the Security Council in improving fair and clear procedures for the sanctions regime on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant/Al-Qaida, thanks in particular to the work of the Ombudsperson. We encourage the Council and the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to ensure the full operational independence of her Office. Furthermore, the Council should consider extending the Ombudsperson process to other appropriate sanctions regimes, especially in the light of the recent final judgment in the case of *Al-Dulimi and Montana Management Inc. v. Switzerland* at the European Court of Human Rights. Such a step will help to allow Member States to live up to the due process standards by which they are bound under regional and international human rights law, thereby ensuring the effective implementation of sanctions in the long run.

Mr. Sobral Duarte (Brazil): I would like to begin by congratulating the co-facilitators — the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the Permanent Representative Iceland, Ambassador Martín Garcia Moritán and Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson — as well as their teams, for their tireless work during the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Brazil is convinced that the text submitted by the co-facilitators in draft resolution A/70/L.55

constitutes a balanced document that reflects the line of compromise identified during consultations. We look forward to its consensual adoption later today.

Over the weeks during which the draft resolution was being discussed, terrorist attacks took place in different regions of the world that claimed more than 300 lives and wounded at least 700 persons, the most recent of which occurred in Turkey, Afghanistan, Somalia and today, Kenya. This is yet another reminder of why our collective efforts cannot afford to fail. Brazil conveys its condolences to all those affected by terrorist attacks and reiterates that there can be no justification for terrorism.

Brazil attaches great importance to keeping the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy relevant and contemporary. It is crucial to continue on the path of increasing coordination within the United Nations system so that the Organization remains central in dealing with the issue and becomes even more able to effectively implement all four pillars of the Strategy and to assist Member States in such an endeavour. We look forward to receiving concrete suggestions from the Secretary-General in that regard and are open to continuing this discussion.

The coordination of international efforts in counter-terrorism would also benefit from concluding a comprehensive convention against international terrorism, which would complement existing instruments, provide a comprehensive legal framework and direct our joint efforts in a more coherent way. The absence of a universally agreed-upon definition of terrorism is detrimental to our shared goal of eliminating it. Filling the legal gap would contribute to understanding the relationship between such concepts as terrorism and violent extremism, as well as create improved conditions to ensure due process of law and compliance with human rights.

Prevention is always the best policy. The Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism emerged as a reference to examine the causes of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism. It reinvigorated our conviction on the need to give due consideration to the underlying causes of terrorism, including those associated with social, political, economic and cultural exclusion.

Terrorist groups have been attracting recruits by offering them a sense of purpose, belonging and identity that they probably failed to acquire elsewhere. Promoting inclusion should therefore be at the basis of efforts aimed at countering terrorist narratives. It is crucial to dispel the stereotypes that associate terrorism with specific cultures, religious or ethnic groups and to reject xenophobia and prejudice. Responses to the refugee crisis should decrease, rather than increase, the risks associated with violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Let us also not lose sight of the protracted conflicts that may directly or indirectly fuel terrorist agendas. The failure to deal with ongoing crises in the Middle East, including the Israel-Palestine conflict, is a case in point. Strategies that privilege the use of force and unilateral interpretations of Security Council mandates have demonstrated their limitations in tragic ways. The presence of Da'esh in countries such as Iraq and Libya cannot be dissociated from the local and regional instability in the aftermath of military action.

Counter-terrorism efforts will be effective to the extent that they are consistent with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. The use of the Internet and social media by terrorist groups demonstrates the evolving nature of the challenge we face. While acting against those trends, we must guard against transgressions with respect to fundamental rights. Brazil welcomes strengthened language in the draft resolution regarding the right to privacy, the protection of which is crucial for safeguarding individuals against the abuse of power. It is our duty to condemn terrorism wherever and whenever it may strike. Victims in one country are no less deserving of our attention than those in another. Civilian casualties resulting from counter-terrorism efforts are no less unacceptable from a human perspective than those generated by other causes.

The Brazilian Constitution establishes the repudiation of terrorism as one of the guiding principles of our foreign policy. Our commitment to fighting terrorism, including its financing, has been translated into domestic legislation. In 2015, Brazil adopted a law designed to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning sanctions against individuals and entities affiliated with terrorist organizations. Earlier this year, legislation was adopted defining the crime of terrorism. As Brazil prepares to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, efforts to prevent and to counter terrorism

have been redoubled, including through the creation of platforms for the sharing of intelligence.

In conclusion, Brazil reiterates its commitment to a multidimensional response to the scourge of terrorism and remains convinced that cooperation and dialogue within the United Nations will enhance the capacity to achieve the results we need. We will succeed only if we join efforts on the basis of shared values and enhanced multilateral cooperation.

Mrs. Calothy (France) (*spoke in French*): France associates itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union.

At the outset, the French delegation would like to thank the co-facilitators for their commitment and work throughout the negotiation process on draft resolution A/70/L.55.

The text that we will adopt this afternoon includes significant advances made over the past two years across the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Above and beyond the interest that this consensus text holds for Member States, the review of the Strategy during its tenth year was not as ambitious as we would have liked. More broadly, we must reflect on our collective response within the framework of the United Nations in countering the terrorist threat. Are we up to the challenges?

Effective counter-terrorism assistance is supposed to help States to tackle the difficulties they face. The requisite financial means are available. We count on the United Nations to provide aid in an efficient and coordinated manner in the context of the global approach advocated by the Secretary-General. The various United Nations bodies must each perform their duties in that regard without duplication, while respecting the competences of each entity. Effectiveness cannot exist without coordination. If we do not develop such coordination, we run the risk of seeing a proliferation of initiatives outside the United Nations, which in turn will run up against difficulties when it comes to coordination and will lack the legitimacy of the United Nations. Only the United Nations has the mandate to act in all countries and to objectively assess the capacities to respond to terrorist threats and to mobilize the necessary resources to tackle the challenges in respect of national sovereignty. In that context, France has high expectations for the report on options that the Secretary-General will present by May 2017 to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of the United Nations in response to terrorism and radicalization.

Among the manifold subjects that require resolute action to counter terrorism, I would like to focus on the prevention of radicalization. The Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism set out specific recommendations on the means to be implemented in order to prevent radicalization that leads to terrorism. France welcomes the fact that the draft resolution calls on States Members of the United Nations and United Nations entities to implement those recommendations. We face that challenge in France. Our authorities have developed a plan to counter radicalization that includes various measures to be taken by all branches of the Administration, including local authorities by way of the the justice, national education and foreign affairs ministries. The progress made by the global coalition to counter Da'esh leads us to hope for the swift military defeat of Da'esh in Syria and Iraq. However, radicalization will continue to exist and each State will have to respond to it on its territory by tackling factors conducive to radicalization. Prevention is a matter that none of us can ignore.

Mr. Zinsou (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Terrorism strikes all continents. The security of each of us depends on the means used by others to fight against terrorism. Each one of us is dependent upon the action of others and none of us will be to effectively counter terrorism if our partners do not fulfil their duties, in particular in the areas of combating the financing of terrorism, border controls, aviation security and judicial and police cooperation. We have international cooperation instruments in place, but are they sufficiently used? For example, INTERPOL databases will not stop foreign terrorist fighters unless those databases are completed and consulted.

We also call on all our partners to be aware of the scourge of trafficking in cultural property. The looting of archaeological sites and museums in territories under the control of terrorist groups must be fought on two counts: first, because it deprives people of their cultural heritage and, secondly, because it contributes to the financing of terrorist activities. Concerted effort by the international community and the private businesses concerned is required to put an end to such trafficking.

The tenth anniversary of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an opportunity for us to take stock. We have made progress, but much remains to be

done to effectively and sustainably counter terrorism. Only collective action under the auspices of the United Nations can help us to take the lead in that long-standing struggle.

Mr. Akbaruddin (India): I thank the co-facilitators — Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson of Iceland and Ambassador Martín García Moritán of Argentina — for leading the process over the past month to finalize draft resolution A/70/L.55, on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Of all the threats that are global in nature and should concern us all, terrorism is among the most serious. It is one that impacts the lives of innocent people across the world. The heinous attacks in Turkey, Somalia, Afghanistan and Kenya during the past few days are stark reminders that we must show our solidarity and increase our cooperation on the issue.

India has partnered with a large number of countries and has concluded more than 40 bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. We have joint mechanisms in place with more than 25 countries to discuss counter-terrorism. We also actively participate in other intergovernmental forums, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and the Financial Action Task Force.

While as individual nations all of us take measures to counter the threat, at this forum we have been making efforts to see whether we can demonstrate collective political will to stand up to terrorists, whose networks are increasingly global in nature and not constrained by any boundaries. As we have said on earlier occasions, no single country can address this challenge alone. Moreover, no country remains immune to the threat. Moreover, victims of such heinous attacks do not belong to a single country, ethnicity or faith. The threat has only grown dramatically in the last couple of years. It has become ever-more necessary for the international community to show that we are united in taking up the challenge.

We are in broad agreement with most of the text that is before us. However, we note with a measure of disappointment that the paragraph relating to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which remains the unfinished agenda of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, reverts to the language adopted in 2014. In our opinion, this signals that the exponential increase in terrorist activities around the world in the last two years has left us untouched. We would therefore like to urge all delegations to make sincere efforts to reach an agreement on concluding the convention at the earliest date, by the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. That would show that the international community is determined and pledged to take concrete actions on counter-terrorism by filling the gaps in the existing regime.

The second issue relates to proposals with regard to the overall coordination of counter-terrorism related initiatives within the United Nations. As we are aware, currently there are nearly 40 entities involved in different ways in the fight against terrorism. It would therefore be useful for a senior official or entity to coordinate the entire range of activities and bring more focus to such activities. We feel that would be useful to convey a clear signal that counter-terrorism has a significant place on the United Nations agenda. It would show that we recognize the urgent and serious nature of the threat posed by terrorism and we are ever-more determined in our intention to take on that threat collectively.

It is our firm conviction that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism. The perpetrators of terrorist attacks, as well as the States that support, sponsor or provide safe havens to terrorists or terrorist groups, must be held accountable. It is essential, in our view, to reflect the determination of the international political will through this forum at the United Nations to join hands to counter terrorism more effectively.

Mr. Andreev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation believes that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted 10 years ago, is an important and unique contribution to strengthening cooperation in the area of international counter-terrorism efforts. The international community has clearly proved today its ability to cooperate effectively as one to counter the global terrorist threat.

One of the most important aspects of the Strategy is its comprehensive approach to fighting terrorism, with law enforcement and the military fighting terrorist groups, accompanied by broad and systematic efforts to prevent and root out terrorist activities and eliminate their breeding grounds. Along with the specialized comprehensive conventions and resolutions of the Security Council, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy forms the basic framework of the international counter-terrorism effort. Through the Strategy,

numerous aspects of today's terrorist threats have been prevented or thwarted. While today terrorism has retained and even increased in its deadly potential, that is not the fault of the collective decisions of the United Nations. It is a consequence of the fact that neither all of the solutions nor all of the elements of the Strategy have been duly implemented and fully and universally enforced.

Once again, the Russian Federation is regretfully obliged to note that, within the arena of international counter-terrorism cooperation, there is still a system of double standards, whereby politicized practices divide terrorists and extremists into groups of "bad" and "not so bad". Moreover, the instrumentalization of terrorist groups — including the most dangerous among them — is used in carrying out geopolitical machinations, interfering in the internal affairs of States, to destabilize and replace unwanted regimes. Such was the source of the crisis in the Middle East and North Africa, which lead to the unprecedented intensification of a new generation of terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State and Jabhat Al-Nusra.

Faced with an unprecedented level of threat emanating from global terrorism, we propose rallying and working together within the framework of a united front of States and a broad international coalition against terrorism. Rather than being guided by individual ambitions, we should ground our work on common values and interests, based upon the Charter of the United Nations, applicable international law and mutually agreed decisions, the most important of which is the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that regard, we view the work carried out on the review of the Strategy and on draft resolution (A/70/L.55, as well as today's meeting, as timely and proper steps aimed at the necessary adaptation of a most important international instrument to existing circumstances and urgent tasks of the international community in the area of counter-terrorism.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the co-facilitators of the complex review process that led to today's success in the form of a draft resolution. Russia notes that the final text of the draft resolution reflects numerous important elements as well as acceptable compromises. The draft resolution will help to further counter-terrorism cooperation. However, I would like to note the Russian position in favour of maintaining a balance between respect for human rights in the course of counter-terrorism measures, on the one hand, and, on the other, providing counter-terrorism security for States and society. Those two different tasks are mutually complementary and must be implemented simultaneously, and not to at the expense of one another.

The current review of the Strategy reflects an emerging foreign policy trend over the past two years, namely, special attention given to preventing violent extremism that leads to terrorism. We are in favour of a more efficient and intensive collaboration among States and the international community on ways of preventing terrorism, including countering the spread of its ideology, especially aimed at youth over the Internet. Russia has actively participated in international efforts on those issues. At the same time, we have repeatedly provided our international partners and the Secretariat with our positions of principle, based on an extensive and successful national experience illustrated by centuries of interreligious and inter-ethnic harmony in Russia. However, our colleagues have not always listened to our assessments and suggestions, and that explains why we still have certain reservations with regard to the Secretary-General's Plan of Action in this area.

Today, it seems to us that a more balanced attitude towards fighting extremism has taken root in the heart of the international community. We are pleased to note that there has been progress in the text of the draft resolution, owing notably to the review of the Strategy. We energetically hope that international cooperation in the fight against extremists, which is gaining momentum, will be based, in the future, on the principles of international law, including, on the sovereignty and equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. A key role in combating extremism and terrorism should continue to be played by States and their competent institutions, which must be carried out according to their capabilities and mandates, necessarily including civil society organizations, religious groups, educational and research institutions, the business community, the media and non-governmental organizations.

We also believe that effective international cooperation in countering extremism requires finally coming up with a definition of that concept, or at least coming to a general understanding, which, in all likelihood, will be linked to existing international legal formulations related to the concept of terrorism. That will ensure that our joint efforts will be more focused and effective.

In principle, we support the assessment that counter-terrorism cooperation at the United Nations needs to be more efficient. We believe, however, that improving those efforts should be carried out through ensuring the harmonious interaction between the General Assembly and the Security Council, while maintaining the prerogatives of the Security Council and the structures underpinning it.

Once again, Russia has significant experience in the area of countering extremism and terrorism, marked by success, at the international level, in its military, law enforcement and organizational and political arenas, but also at the civil level with regard to education and by maintaining an atmosphere that energetically rejects terrorist ideas and practice through our multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society. We are prepared to share that experience in all appropriate forums to ensure that all States are equally protected from terrorism.

Against that backdrop, we have no doubt that cooperation in countering terrorism will remain the most relevant issue on today's international agenda. Today and in future, all we need to do is to put it into action. That will take place only if States have the necessary political will. The Russian Federation has that will, as we have demonstrated on many occasions.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Ten years ago, when the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it was a major step forward in the international effort to combat terrorism. My delegation hopes that the fifth review of the Strategy and draft resolution A/70/L.55, which we anticipate will be adopted by consensus this afternoon — and which aims at establishing a global strategy and other international instruments — will be implemented in practice so that we can achieve the common goals and aspirations of our people, namely, the eradication of this dangerous phenomenon and its threat to international peace and security. In that connection, I would to thank my colleagues, the Permanent Representative of Iceland and the Permanent Representative of Argentina and their teams, for their efforts in facilitating the fifth review and the consultations on the draft resolution.

The draft resolution includes a number of important additions that reflect the developments and challenges that have emerged since the fourth review of the Strategy. My delegation took an active part in the consultations in a constructive spirit. We proposed suggestions and demonstrated a great deal of flexibility, because we understood that our main purpose was not to define every single word, although that is important, but to achieve consensus in order to facilitate the full implementation of the Strategy and its provisions by Member States and to put it into practice on the ground to achieve significant results for us all.

Despite the difficult outcomes and suffering in my country due to the violence that has affected our society as a whole — with a number of States having undermined effective collective action under the United Nations to counter terrorist organizations and prevent them from consolidating their presence on the ground and perpetuating their barbaric actions on Syrian territory — we have not lost hope. We have not lost the hope that the Organization will remain the essential international forum to implement and coordinate international efforts in our joint fight against terrorism and threats to international peace and security and in ensuring peace and security for countries and prosperity for their peoples. Those efforts have encouraged us to continue working to undermine terrorists' efforts and to once again warn Member States of the threat of terrorism. Terrorism poses a threat to all our peoples, and therefore all of us must remain concerned. That is why we must support such efforts.

We have continuously asked that the United Nations and its various organs ensure respect for the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant international instruments under the United Nations, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the outcomes of the reviews of the terrorism instruments in the framework of the Security Council. There cannot be double standards or politicization of these important issues, nor deliberate ambiguity when it comes to terrorism issues, which are linked to other matters, as that has led to divisions within our consensus. In that context, we need to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, which certain States have used various pretexts in order to not implement them.

The events in Syria, including the terrorist acts that have been committed for years involving dozens of other States, prove that terrorist organizations are able to take action, recruit, plan, finance and thereby perpetuate terrorist acts. One of those organizations has now presented itself as a State, a caliphate associated with Islam. Yet Islam has nothing to do with its actions. They have claimed two capitals — one in Syria and one

in Iraq. They have set up cells in a number of Member States. They have spread like mushrooms after rain and now include numerous organizations, such as Jabhat Al-Nusra, Boko Haram and the Eastern Turkistan Movement, which has been supported by Turkey's secret services on Turkish territory and is now carrying out attacks in Kinsibba, near Lattakia. Other organizations include Emarat Kavkaz, Al-Shabaab, Jaish Al-Islam, Harakat Ahrar Al-Sham, Jaish Al-Muhajireen wal Ansar and Al-Sultan Murad Brigade. From the names, we can determine who is behind the terrorist organizations.

Many organizations commit terrorist acts in other States and regions of the world, thanks to the support provided by the Governments of States that are Members of the Organization that view terrorism as a cheap and easy tool that serves them well in achieving their goals and in weakening the stability and security of other States. It is regrettable that members of the Security Council have prevented such groups from being listed as terrorist organizations. Those Governments refer to them as "moderate opposition fighters", "armed rebel groupss" or "non-State actors". I should like to note that some Governments of Council members have rebuffed a Syrian request to add Jaish Muhammad-Abu Obayda Al-Muhajir to the Security Council's list, while that organization had supported both Jabhat Al-Nusra and Al-Qaida since the early days.

Therefore I ask the Council: If the leaders of that terrorist organization include Abu Masrood, a Libyan; Abu Mariam, a Tunisian; Abu Hafsa, an Egyptian; and Abu Hajara, a Frenchman, then how is it possible to call that organization a "moderate Syrian opposition force"? They are nothing but foreign mercenaries. How can we combat terrorists while some of here support terrorist organizations and provide them with resources, protection and support and facilitate the entry of some elements into Syrian and Iraqi territory by way of the northern and southern borders?

The challenges are enormous. As to the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, tens of thousands of them come from over 115 Member States, based on the United Nations report (S/2016/501), thanks to the support and the facilities provided by well-known countries — for example, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. We can only ask ourself if those States actually respect our fight against terrorism. In fact, we must call them to account for violations of international humanitarian law.

We need to counter extremist and terrorist ideas that incite violence and terrorist acts. We need to end and root out sources of financing for terrorists who have direct or indirect support from certain countries. Moreover, they have trade links with those terrorist organizations. Terrorist groups should not be able to receive weapons and munitions, including weapons of mass destruction, or the means of launching munitions or producing weapons. It is vital to combat the causes of terrorism and violent extremism, including occupation and military actions. We need to put an end to interference in the internal affairs of States and unilateral actions. The Israeli occupation on the occupied Arab territories and the support provided by the Qatari and Saudi regimes to international terrorist organizations linked to the Al-Nusra Front on the line of separation is State-sponsored terrorism. That is where the United Nations must act.

We reiterate that any effort at countering terrorism will not succeed unless it is in line with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and fully supported and endorsed by the Governments of the States concerned. The only way to counter terrorism is to create an international alliance in the framework of international law and with the participation of the States concerned, especially the Syrian State.

Any attempt on the part of Member States to justify their military interference in Syria based on Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations without the coordination of the Syrian Government undermines the Charter and contravenes international law. We have addressed various letters and requests to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General with regard to the damage caused to our infrastructure, economic system and oil and gas refineries in Syria due to the air strikes conducted by what is called the "international alliance" that is targeting the infrastructure and the sources of wealth of the Syrian State. Just today houses, schools, a sugar refinery, a warehouse of the consumer authority and several grain silos and bridges were bombed in the cityof Manbij. Is the aim to counter Da'esh or to destroy the resources of the Syrian people? That is the question I am asking members of the General Assembly.

Finally, my delegation must address the needs of the victims of terrorism who are numerous in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. We need to provide for their needs and rehabilitation so that they contribute to

their societies and be guarantors of the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Husy (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): On the eve of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we gather here today to assess both the progress and the challenges in its implementation. Switzerland strongly condemns all deliberate attacks against civilians and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the reasons the perpetrators might invoke. Our solidarity goes out to the victims of such heinous acts.

Switzerland is convinced that the United Nations has a key role to play in combating the scourge of terrorism. We are fully committed to the implementation of the Global Strategy, which remains the principle framework of reference and is based on four interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars — prevention, repression, capacity-building and respect for human rights.

Since the fourth Biennial Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in 2014, terrorism has been increasing and spreading. That has a lot to do with the rise of organizations such as Da'esh and Boko Haram, which control last swathes of territories, populations and resources. Fighters from around the world have joined their ranks, in particular Da'esh, which has been able to generate considerable revenue from a number of sources. A great part of terrorists' crimes are related to contexts of armed conflicts, but we are also seeing an increase in terrorist attacks committed outside war zones by returning terrorist fighters and by persons who have having never joined a terrorist organization. Those developments are a wake-up call and remind us of the need to prevent violent extremism. It has become clear that the engagement of local communities, civil society and the private sector is pivotal.

In 2006, the General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the landmark resolution 60/288. From the outset, Switzerland has promoted a comprehensive and balanced implementation of the Strategy. Our contribution to strategic thinking within the United Nations is mentioned in the written version of my statement.

Switzerland thanks the Secretary-General, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its entities for their reports (A/70/674 and A/70/826). We also congratulate the two co-facilitators, Argentina and Iceland, for their leadership and hard work, which will allow us to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.55 by consensus.

Switzerland has pursued the following five priorities in the framework of the fifth review: enhancing prevention by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the radicalization process leading to violent extremism; generating more funding for prevention by engaging development actors in preventive activities, based on the criteria of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Development Assistance Committee, and in particular support the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, based in Geneva; protecting the humanitarian space by ensuring that measures taken to counter terrorism do not prejudice the efforts made in support of international humanitarian law, or humanitarian action based on those principles; applying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international standards of juvenile justice for children accused of committing a terrorist offence, or of joining a terrorist group; and placing greater emphasis on planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Global Strategy.

We are therefore pleased to note that draft resolution A/70/L.55, on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, to be adopted this afternoon, includes the most important issues and developments of the past two years. The draft resolution recognizes the importance of preventing violent extremism. And we are also happy to find the reference to the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism, held in April and jointly organized by the United Nations and Switzerland.

We must now focus on the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. To make prevention a reality, we will also need financial resources. We call upon Member States to increase funding for preventing violent extremism initiatives, including the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, which is a public-private partnership enterprise that supports grass-roots initiatives and efforts to prevent radicalization to violent extremism.

As the draft resolution underscores, it is importat to engage local communities and civil society in order to make a real difference on the ground and to highlight the important role of women and youth.

Switzerland will continue to dedicate itself to the full implementation of the Global Strategy with a strong emphasis on prevention. We remain convinced that, within the framework of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, it will be important for us to take the measures needed to ensure that the United Nations architecture on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism genuinely responds to the needs of Member States and helps them to face new challenges. My delegation therefore very much looks forward to the options and recommendations that the Secretary-General will present by May 2017.

In April, Switzerland adopted a foreign policy plan of action on the prevention of violent extremism. Federal, cantonal and local authorities are currently discussing a national plan of action. Activities and measures on an international and national level are integrated into the Swiss counter-terrorism strategy adopted in September 2015, which covers prevention, protection, prosecution and preparedness for a terrorist attack. The strategy is based on the notion that effective counter-terrorism measures and protecting human rights are not conflicting goals, but rather complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): We thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting on the biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We thank Ambassador Gunnarsson and Ambassador Garcia Moritán for taking on the formidable task of co-facilitating these extremely important negotiations. Their efforts and contributions are much appreciated by us all.

The Strategy, which we adopted by consensus 10 years ago, remains just as valid and relevant today as it was then. The nature and the extent of terrorism may have changed over the past decade, but the Strategy's four pillars and its approach of supporting and promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights still serve as the best way to ensure, as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has cautioned, that counter-terrorism is not counter-productive.

As has been the case with many other Member States during the past two years, my country was recently shaken when a man committed an act of terror and hate that took the lives of 49 innocent people and injured many others in Orlando, Florida. We have seen civilians attacked again and again, most recently in Istanbul, but also in Brussels, Jakarta, Paris, Peshawar, Tunis and throughout Nigeria, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Mali, Kenya and Somalia. Sadly, the list goes on and on. It is clear that none of our countries or citizens is immune from this plague, and we must all partner together to counter it.

That is why the United States joined other delegations to reach an important, and very much needed, consensus on draft resolution A/70/L.55. Despite several aspects of this package that proved challenging to accept, we are committed to furthering global progress in the fight against terrorism. We ultimately found this draft resolution to do so by welcoming the Secretary-General's initiative to prevent violent extremism and by mainstreaming his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism within the context of the Strategy, while setting a concrete timeline for the General Assembly to finally review and decide on how to best shape the United Nations architecture for counter-terrorism.

The key question is how we work together to counter terrorism. While the Security Council has come together to address terrorism-related issues in such resolutions as 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), it is the General Assembly's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that still provides the general framework for addressing terrorism in all its manifestations. It is important to recall that the Strategy states that international cooperation and any measures we undertake to prevent and combat terrorism must comply with our obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

What does that mean in practical terms? It means that, as we consider the task of countering terrorism, we all must recognize that the common goal of countering terrorist ideology should never be used as an excuse to suppress political dissent. It means that we need to focus on exposing the lies, distortions and falsehoods that underpin terrorist narratives, while simultaneously facilitating the free flow of information. Such openness expands access to the truth — and in this struggle the truth is unquestionably on our side. Counter-messaging, social media and an open Internet is how we defeat the ideology of Da'esh and other terrorists in the modern era, not through media restrictions, Internet filters or attacks on political opponents.

In 2015 President Obama convened the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, at

which Government, private sector and civil society leaders from around the world came together in acknowledgment that our collective efforts to counter terrorism would not be fully successful absent a more deliberate focus on the causes of radicalization to extremist violence and an understanding of effective responses to prevent and disrupt that process. The White House Summit raised awareness of the need for this more comprehensive approach and was followed by a series of regional summits to advance our understanding of how to counter and prevent violent extremism. We found through that process, involving more than 100 countries and hundreds of civil society voices, that there was a strong global desire to broaden our approach to countering violent extremism and to develop more effective tools to identify and address the drivers of radicalization and recruitment to violence by harnessing the inherent power of communities, civil society and faith leaders and the private sector to help our societies confront the current threat and to prevent future threats from gestating and taking root.

Just in the past month, Secretary Kerry released a joint Department of State/United States Agency for International Development strategy to counter violent extremism. That document will serve as a guide for our international efforts in engagement on countering violent extremism. In that vein, we welcome the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. It spells out a valuable set of recommendations for the United Nations and Member States to consider and implement in order to develop a more effective counter-terrorism approach that enlists the whole of society and an all-of-UN approach.

The United States supports the Plan's many recommendations, which are relevant to all States. We would highlight the Plan's first recommendation — that all legislation, policies, strategies and practices adopted to prevent violent extremism must be firmly grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law. It has never been more important that we all implement that and the Secretary-General's other recommendations. We note that today's draft resolution recommends that States consider implementing the Plan's recommendations as applicable to national contexts, which means that States should implement them to address the particular threats that are most salient in each State.

We see the Plan of Action as a living document that should serve as the catalyst for further research to provide more insights into the drivers of violent extremism in specific contexts, and how to counter them. At the same time, we must guard against any effort to see any justification for terrorism — simply put, there is and can be no such justification.

Future biennial reviews should seek to incorporate new recommendations on good practices, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of returning foreign terrorist fighters, and further promotion of the need to work with youth and women.

As we reaffirm our support for the Strategy, we must also consider whether the United Nations organizational arrangements for implementing it are fit for purpose. The number of United Nations and other entities now involved on these issues has far surpassed the current structure's ability to manage its contributions effectively or efficiently. That is why the United States welcomes the draft resolution's request that the Secretary-General present concrete suggestions to the General Assembly by May 2017, for consideration by the Assembly during its seventy-first session to improve the United Nations implementation of the Strategy, including in relation to preventing violent extremism. We welcome finally having set a concrete timeline to reform the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. We look forward to the debate and decision before the end of the seventy-first session next summer.

Moreover, the United States looks forward to continuing to improve coordination and coherence at the United Nations on those issues and calls for the creation of the post of a high-ranking official dedicated to helping implement the Strategy, including by serving as a global advocate and spokesperson who leads the coordination of the United Nations system for an all-of-UN approach and acts as the primary focal point for Members States' engagement with the United Nations and the donor coordinator to mobilize resources. Of course, a coordinator position by itself will not revitalize the United Nations system on this issue, but without it the international community's plans and programmes will continue to total less than the sum of their parts.

If the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture is not improved, Member States will continue to face uncoordinated development of priorities and policy and the inefficient use of resources for capacity-building by the United Nations system to support humanitarian aid, protect and promote human rights and conduct peacekeeping operations.

We stress that nothing in the draft resolution changes the obligation on States to prohibit their nationals, or those in their territory, from providing assets to terrorist organizations or individual terrorists for any purpose. That obligation applies regardless of whether such support was meant to further the terrorist or humanitarian goals of a terrorist or terrorist organization. In parallel, there is no obligation under international law that countries allow the provision of support to terrorist groups or individual terrorists for any purported humanitarian or other activities they may pursue.

We also emphasize the important role that non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations play in combating terrorism and terrorist financing, and reaffirm the call by the Security Council for non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations to prevent and oppose, as appropriate, attempts by terrorists to abuse their status.

The terrorism threat landscape remains dynamic. We must continue to enhance and adapt our efforts to stay ahead of emerging threats. The United States is committed to working closely with the Global Coalition to Counter Da'esh and with other partners to counter the threat posed by Da'esh and its adherents and other terrorist groups, including their affiliates, networks and adherents.

Engagement through the United Nations on those issues is an essential part of our overall strategy. We will continue to support a strong role for the United Nations to help Member States prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. Chulukhadze (Georgia): At the outset, on behalf of the Georgian delegation, I would like to thank the President for inviting my country to participate in this interesting event, as well as to express our sincere appreciation for the multilateral effort made to prepare draft resolution A/70/L.55, which will be adopted by consensus this afternoon. In that regard, Georgia would like to thank Argentina and Iceland for facilitating that far-from-easy process.

On behalf of the Government of Georgia and the Georgian people, I would like to express my profound condolences with regard to the horrific terrorist attacks that took place at Attaturk International Airport. Allow me to convey to the Turkish Government and the Turkish people our support and sympathy at this time of grief and sadness.

George fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. However, allow me to make a statement in my national capacity.

Terrorism has become one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. Georgia opposes any form of terrorism and acknowledges the dangers caused by the growing threat of international terrorism and its new forms. Therefore, Georgia actively cooperates with the relevant international and regional organizations. My country is an active member of the global anti-terrorism coalition and participates in multinational anti-terrorism operations that give Georgia an opportunity to contribute to the activities of the global anti-terrorism coalition.

Thanks to the all of the necessary steps that my Government has taken over the past years, the territory of Georgia where Georgian authorities exercise full jurisdiction and effective control enjoys low statistics on terrorism-related crime. On the other hand, the Russian-occupied territories of Georgia continue to represent a major challenge for my Government in our efforts to combat terrorism. Those areas, like black holes, serve as safe harbors for terrorists and other radical and extremist groups, as well as organized criminals that threaten the security situation in the entire region. Furthermore, due to the widespread corruption and absence of legitimate and effective police and security control, seaports of the Russian-occupied territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, could be used for jihadi travel by foreign terrorist fighters, as well as smuggling of weapons of mass destruction.

The period after the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has witnessed some crucial developments in the context of plotting and executing terrorist attacks that significantly changed the security environment worldwide. The modus operandi of terrorist organizations, and most notably of Da'esh, changed significantly and became more sophisticated.

As we find ourselves in a situation in which terrorist organizations compete with nation States for the hearts and minds of individuals, the issue of the utmost importance is to prevent them from boosting their personnel ranks with our citizens. Accordingly, the prevention of radicalization is of current importance within the framework of counter-terrorism policies and should definitively enjoy a prioritized status in that regard

We should be focused on a whole-of-society approach via community engagement and empowerment of local communities, since the latter constitutes the best prevention mechanism. It should be underlined that community engagement initiatives must be driven by the relevant communities; the Government's role in the process should be facilitation.

Drivers of terrorism and violent extremism are important, as such factors trigger the radicalization of individuals. Member States must therefore continue to identify and monitor drivers of terrorism in their own societies, as the origins of violent extremism vary from State to State and take on different meanings in relation to the specificities of each community.

We would like to suggest addressing those drivers in the context of prevention by identifying the respective triggers and aspects to be considered in responding to them. The latter requirement can refer to the promotion and protection of human rights as a means of countering violent extremism and in creating better conditions for an inclusive society in which there will be no space for the development of an extremist agenda.

As we identified the roots of radicalization of the individuals that constitute the smallest societal group in my country, the Government of Georgia launched several projects aimed at improving the full-fledged integration of vulnerable groups into civil society through economic development and educational, cultural and other types of social engagement that were assessed as highly effective, bearing in mind implementation results.

It should also be mentioned that modern technology is effectively used in spreading terrorist ideology, enhancing terrorist propaganda and waging psychological warfare. Moreover, recruitment no longer necessitates face-to-face communication. As investigations indicate, recruiters and foreign terrorist fighters are using modern encrypted networks. That creates huge obstacles for law enforcement agencies engaged in the detection, prevention and suppression of terrorism-related crimes. Therefore, we should be focused on the monitoring and early detection of terrorist activities in networks, with due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, since information necessary for investigative purposes is stored in multiple servers located in different areas of the world, no single State can have full access to the data without proper assistance from foreign partners.

It should be underlined that cooperation between law enforcement agencies with regard to the digital world cannot be considered an exhaustive measure in the efforts to combat international terrorism and violent extremism. Public-private partnership is crucial in countering that medium of radicalization. It is of the utmost necessity that every Member State create public-private cooperation forums aimed at deleting from the web content that is directly or indirectly connected to terrorism, violent extremism or respective threats. As the experience of my country demonstrates, public-private cooperation forums constitute a very successful tool in the process of confronting threats facing national security.

Another important issue of the counter-radicalization pillar is to hinder the manipulation of sensitive religious topics on behalf of terrorist organizations. That aim cannot be achieved without the engagement of religious leaders. In that context, Governments should facilitate the involvement of moderate preachers who will explain religious narratives involving the peaceful coexistence of different religious and ethnic groups. Bearing in mind the rapidly increasing terrorist propaganda, religious leaders can also play a very positive role in countering the narrative process.

Our practice clearly demonstrates that amending legislation is of the utmost importance in an effective fight against terrorism. Improvement to Georgian legislation has enabled law enforcement agencies to arrest a recruiter for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in Georgia and three of his associates. In an effective fight against terrorism, it is of utmost importance that Member States have a common approach. Despite differences in their internal legal order, respective national legal acts should adequately respond to the threats entailed by terrorism and violent extremism.

Since terrorism has attained an international character, no single country can ensure fulfillment of the very important task of countering it by overlooking cooperation with other States. Therefore, the Georgian Government has acceded to all major international counter-terrorism conventions and concluded dozens of bilateral treaties envisaging intelligence-sharing and law enforcement cooperation on terrorism crimes and related offences. In addition, our criminal intelligence-sharing internal procedures have been simplified significantly.

The implementation of the those efforts by States can be accompanied by assistance from international organizations, and the United Nations is one of the most important actors in that regard. Respective structures of the Organization can be used as important discussion forums on counter-terrorism policies and, at the same time, have a practical impact in terms of conducting field operations in Member States. In our opinion, together with acquiring the status of a hub for sharing best practices, the United Nations can also assist Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that respect, field missions can be a useful tool in terms of assisting Member States in identifying deficiencies in their efforts to combat terrorism and compensating for those shortcomings.

In order to tackle the problematic issues I have mentioned, it is of the utmost importance to implement both hard and soft measures in countering the respective threats. It is therefore necessary that States fully implement the requirements enshrined in resolution 2178 (2014).

In line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and in accordance with its four pillars, Georgia carries out all the necessary measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, with a view to preventing and combating terrorism and building the State's capacity to fight terrorism, while ensuring full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Furthermore, Georgia deems it important to comprehensively reform its counter-terrorism system. In that process the requirements of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy have become the guiding priorities. Accordingly, my Government has begun the elaboration of Georgia's national counter-terrorism strategy and action plan, which will reflect core principles of the Strategy.

Mr. Fernández de Soto Camacho (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Before I begin my formal statement, I take this opportunity to express our rejection and condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks on the Istanbul airport in Turkey. The Government of Colombia expresses its condolences to the families of those who have died, while wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. Colombia reiterates its solidarity with the Government and the people of Turkey.

Unfortunately such acts — which have also recently occurred in Bangladesh, France and the United States, among other places — show that the individuals who resort to terrorism have no limit in terms of attacking the values and principles of States and the fundamental freedoms promoted by the various bodies of the United Nations. Colombia condemns and rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, because it cannot be accepted or justified under any circumstance. In the same vein, we must emphasize that terrorism cannot, and should not be, associated with any religion, civilization, ethnic group or nationality.

My delegation thanks Ambassador Martín García Moritán of Argentina and Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson of Iceland and their teams for leading the review process of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Colombia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

We welcome the presentation of the Secretary-General's report (A/70/674), which highlights the progress made and the challenges we must face in order to advance towards a full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The diversity and complexity of criminal activity that knows no borders and has shown that it can affect vastly different States and societies is a challenge for our countries. As the Secretary General reminds us in his report, States have witnessed the outbreak of new kinds of terrorist threats to international peace and security. The most significant challenge is the spread of violent extremist ideologies and the emergence of terrorist groups fuelled by them.

Violent extremism is a complex phenomenon, without an internationally agreed definition. However, as the Secretary General mentions in his report, in recent years terrorist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida and Boko Haram have used it to promote hate speech that has spread throughout the world. These groups constantly cross national borders, which is why we must now work more closely than ever to prevent the spread of this ideology and to fight them decisively with a view to reducing their capacity for action against us.

The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism put forward by the Secretary-General is aimed at further bolstering efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent

extremism by focusing further upstream, before the traditional point of intervention. That important message reminds us of the need to work on reducing situations that could lead to terrorism, an idea that has been taken up in the high-level reviews and processes that were undertaken in 2015, including the review by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the follow-up report of the Secretary-General on the future of United Nations peace operations (A/70/357), the global study on women and peace and security and the expert review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

All actions to prevent and combat terrorism must be carried out in strict and full compliance with obligations under international law. This is a sine qua non for the global fight against terrorism to produce the results we hope for.

Colombia believes that caring for victims of terrorism and protecting their rights are fundamental pillars in the protection and promotion of human rights. Victims of terrorism must be heard, and States must have mechanisms in place for protecting and promoting their rights and recognition.

Strengthening national institutions and capacities, generating and disseminating specialized knowledge, sharing experiences and good practices and having efficient mechanisms for exchanging information are some of the areas in which international cooperation must be enhanced, as each State bears the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy.

Dialogue, cooperation and concerted efforts are the fundamental basis for achieving civilized coexistence free from the scourge of terrorism. As such, in our efforts to make our world safer, Colombia reaffirms its commitment to working with all Member States to ensure the successful implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Roet (Israel): I would like to begin my remarks by extending our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of Turkey following the attack in Istanbul this week. Every lost life is a tragedy, and every terror attack must be strongly condemned. The State of Israel stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the many countries confronting the evil of terrorism.

Draft resolution A/70/L.55, on the fifth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, is an important document that will affect all States and all peoples. Today, we in the General Assembly have a historic opportunity to make an impact on the pressing issue of counter-terrorism. In the negotiations, most States came to the table with the understanding that the draft resolution was a way to craft a unified response to the challenges of global terrorism. However, it seems that not all States had the same objective in mind for the draft resolution. Some States aimed to inject language that would serve only to create division in the international community, rather than foster cooperation. Amazingly, in one of the versions of the counter-terrorism draft resolution, we saw the representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation shamefully use the opportunity to excuse and legitimize terrorism. They proposed that killing in the name of "self-determination and national liberation" did not constitute terrorism. Let me repeat: terrorism for the sake of "self-determination and national liberation does not constitute terrorism", according to that absurd logic. This is an absolute outrage.

Just yesterday, as New York was waking up, the State of Israel was already confronted with two terror attacks perpetrated by terrorists. Hallel Yaffa Ariel, may her memory be blessed, a 13-year-old girl, was enjoying her summer holiday just like millions of children around the world. She was calm and tranquil in the one place a child should feel safest — her own bed. She was asleep when a Palestinian terrorist entered her home and viciously and repeatedly stabbed her to death. Only two days ago, that young girl was performing at a dance recital, and yesterday she was buried by her father, her mother and her two sisters.

This morning, as we were sipping our morning coffee on our way to work, a family of four was shot in cold blood while in their car. The father was killed, the mother is severely injured and the children, one of them only 1-year-old, are both injured, and are now in grave danger of becoming orphans. In this despicable reality, one day parents have to bury their child, and the next children have to bury their father.

Let me ask: Do those murders not constitute terrorism? Do those attackers not constitute terrorists? Does Hallel Yaffa's life matter any less than any of those in Paris, Brussels, Istanbul or Orlando? Is there no limit to the audacity of those trying to score cheap political points at the United Nations?

The United Nations must decide whether it wants to be a relevant actor in facing the challenges that

terrorism poses in the twenty-first century or to cave in to the narrow political interests of some States. It is unacceptable for there to be one definition of terrorism for the international community and another definition for my country. This sort of double standard would surely not be tolerated against any other country or in any other country.

As a unified group, it is imperative that we all act decisively in order to combat terrorism, wherever it may be. Staying silent or getting distracted over the politics of draft resolutions will achieve exactly the opposite and embolden our enemies. As we speak, terrorist groups like Daesh, Hizbullah, Hamas, Boko Haram and others are distorting justice in the name of a skewed ideology in order to justify the murder of innocent people. Such groups continue to make a mockery of the values and principles that this institution holds so dear. They celebrate and glorify terror against civilians. They prey on people's insecurities and are willing to use the most violent and brutal of tactics to achieve their goals.

Global Terrorism is a disease that intimidates our families, uproots our communities and threatens all nation States. And in the face of increasing globalization, the challenges have become more persistent. Today, it is easier than ever for an average person to become radicalized. All it takes to major in terrorism 101 is the internet, a smartphone and a YouTube account.

By 2015, more than 30,000 foreign fighters had fled their countries and homes all over the world to join Daesh and their likes in Iraq. They are inspired by manipulative leadership, vile images and propaganda meant to incite. The United Nations must take further action against this growing threat. We can no longer be satisfied with watered-down draft resolutions negotiated to reach the lowest common denominator. If we want to develop an effective counter-terrorism strategy, we need to make sure we address the real issues at stake. We need a strategy that unites, rather than divides, but also one that is able to promote concrete steps on the ground. Israel has always called for a balanced implementation of all four pillars, but, unfortunately, we see attempts to destroy that balance.

One of the issues we have yet to address is the challenge of the use of civilian infrastructure by non-State actors and the use of civilians as human shields. We have received horrific reports from Fallujah about hundreds of civilians who were used as human shields, the same barbaric tactic Israel is facing against Hamas and Hizbullah. In the south, Hamas is preparing for the next round of conflict by building an ever-growing sophisticated weapons infrastructure, above ground and below. Hamas has previously shown its willingness to position its rockets alongside the civilian population of Gaza, under hospitals and in the vicinity of schools and United Nations facilities. Hamas is also reconstructing its offensive tunnel system, whose sole purpose is to perpetrate more stabbings, kidnappings and terror attacks on the people of Israel.

While Israelis live under the shadow of threat from Hamas in the south, they also see the dark cloud of Hizbullah in the north. As we approach 10 years since the second Lebanon war with Hizbullah, the situation has not gotten better; it has gotten worse. Hizbullah has transformed villages in southern Lebanon into terror outposts and military infrastructure. Before 2006, Hizbullah had 15,000 rockets; today they have amassed more than 130,000 rockets. Which of the countries represented in the Assembly has more than 130,000 rockets? Hizbullah has that many. The situation is so grave that in some villages there are even more rocket stations than houses.

Wherever there is terror, Iran is there. Iran backs and supports Hizbullah's operations and activities. This path of funding is no secret, and Hizbullah officials do not even attempt to hide their footprints. Just recently, Hizbullah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah said,

> "Hizbullah's budget and funds come directly from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and as long as Iran has money we will have money."

When States create and fund vicious networks that incite and inspire terror, we must come together to form an even stronger counter-terrorism network. It is our duty as Member States to eradicate one of the main factors that leads to terrorism, namely, the worldwide incitement and indoctrination carried out by political, communal and social leaders.

We regret that the Strategy does not address the incitement to terror and glorification of martyrdom by political and religious leaders — a key issue if we really want to eradicate terrorism. Real leaders should emphasize to our children and youth the sanctity of life, not the glorifrication of death. Our teachings should promote an education that preaches peace instead of hate, tolerance instead of violence and mutual understanding instead of martyrdom. If we fail to use

this Strategy to fight such distorted extremist narratives and networks, we simply open the door to more terror.

Mr. Thoms (Germany): Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Let me begin by expressing our deepest condolences to the people and the Government of Turkey in the aftermath of the recent attack on the Istanbul airport. That horrible event shows once more that we need to redouble our efforts to fight terrorism and violent extremism. The international community needs to stand united against such individuals who terrorize innocent men, women and children around the world.

Terrorism and the spread of violent extremism are the worst and most urgent global security threats we are faced with today. In order to tackle this challenge, we need strong and united action at the international level. At the national level, Member States must first and foremost adapt their domestic criminal codes to fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and the applicable international standards. German criminal law already covers a wide range of terrorist activities. Most important, German law criminalizes membership in, and support of, foreign terrorist organizations. In addition, visiting a terrorist training camp abroad has been a criminal offence in Germany since 2009.

In recent years, Germany has taken additional legal measures to implement the latest Security Council resolutions in their entirety. First, a new provision criminalizes travel with the intention of committing a serious violent act endangering the State or providing or undergoing training for that purpose. Secondly, a separate criminal law that deals with the financing of terrorism was passed. The financing of terrorism is now uniformly punishable under criminal law. Thirdly, the German Parliament adopted an additional act to amend the law on identity cards; the aim is to prevent travel that might pose a threat to the State by potential terrorists.

While those legal measures are signs of progress in the fight against terrorists, terrorism cannot be defeated in the long run solely by relying on law enforcement. We have to identify the root causes and analyse the drivers of terrorism. We have to focus far more on prevention to ensure that our youth are not lured into the dangerous ideologies of terrorists. We are very grateful for the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which the General Assembly has already welcomed. We would have liked to see a strong endorsement of the Plan of Action in draft resolution A/70/L.55, as the Plan rightly identifies prevention as the key to a sustainable solution to the problem of terrorism by preventing incitement to terrorism and radicalization.

We deplore that the membership could not agree on a clearer message that States should invest a great deal more in preventing terrorism and the type of extremism that may lead to it in the first place. We commend the all-of-UN approach outlined in the Plan of Action, which makes preventing violent extremism an important part of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We must now advance an all-Member-States approach to implement the Strategy. Therefore, Germany is currently in the process of drawing up a national action plan to promote democracy and prevent extremism in an effort to ensure our measures dovetail better.

In order for our efforts to be effective, the United Nations must stand ready to react to the complexities and challenges of terrorism and violent extremism in a coordinated and coherent manner. Therefore, we, along with many other States, have advocated for a complete overhaul of the architecture of the United Nations counter-terrorism system, under strong leadership. We need to create an architecture that will live up to today's challenges, and we need an international coordination system that considers humanitarian stabilization and the political and law enforcement aspects of our fight against terrorism in parallel. As many have already said today, the fight against terrorism must be fought by the international community on multiple fronts, and through the combination of many different tools. It is a collective effort that will last for years, if not decades. The Assembly may rest assured that Germany is fully committed to doing its share.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation expresses its appreciation to the co-facilitators of the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Permanent Representative of Iceland, Ambassador Gunnarsson, and the Permanent Representative of Argentina, Ambassador Garcia Moritán, and their capable teams.

At present, international terrorist activities are running rampant and exhibiting new characteristics. Such terrorist organizations as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Qaida are better organized, employ more brutal tactics and are engaged

more frequently in cross-border activities. Terrorist organizations are using new technologies, including the Internet and social media, to raise funds, recruit personnel and plan terrorist activities, thereby posing a greater danger. Terrorist and extremist forces are spreading terrorist ideology and extremist ideas and inciting hatred, discrimination and violence, all of which have caused more devastating damage.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The review of that Strategy has provided an important opportunity for the United Nations membership to enhance coordination, deepen cooperation and intensify efforts in the area of counter-terrorism. China appreciates the commitment demonstrated by all sides to strengthening international cooperation on counter-terrorism and the consensus reached on improving cooperation on enforcing counter-terrorism legislation and law enforcement, combating the use of the Internet and other platforms in spreading terrorist and extremist ideas and preventing and stopping terrorists from returning.

We hope that the General Assembly will adopt draft resolution A/70/L.55, on this agenda item, by consensus, thereby creating conditions conducive to effectively combating terrorism. Terrorism is the common enemy of all humankind and poses a serious threat to international peace and security. Faced with new trends and characteristics in the evolution of terrorism , the international community should adopt a comprehensive approach and effectively coordinate and address both the symptoms and the root causes. China would like to propose the following six points.

First, political input should be enhanced and consensus should be continuously sought in the area of counter-terrorism. The international community should uphold a single and unified standard with regard to combating terrorism. All terrorist activities — committed in any name, by any means and against any country — should be fought with resolve. International counter-terrorism operations must acknowledge the leading role of the United Nations and the Security Council and abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Terrorism should not be linked with any particular ethnic group or religion.

Secondly, we should redouble our preventive efforts and establish floodgates at the source. Member States should take very seriously the trends of the spread of violent and extremist ideas by terrorist organizations and their luring of deluded young people to join their ranks. We must also resolutely combat the distortion of religious doctrines and other tactics with the purpose of inciting hatred and discrimination and advocating violence and other extreme ideas, with a view to eliminating the ideological basis of terrorism.

Thirdly, we should stop terrorists from moving across borders and halt the flow of terrorism financing and the supply of weapons. All countries must strengthen border control and enforcement cooperation and effectively address the cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters, in particular the return of terrorists. The international community must take concrete measures to enhance cooperation on financial regulation and crack down on terrorism financing through the illegal trafficking of petroleum, cultural relics and narcotics.

Fourthly, we must upgrade our counter-terrorism response and effectively combat the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes. All sides must fully implement the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, strengthen cyberspace regulation and combat and stop terrorist organizations from using the Internet to spread extremist ideas, recruit personnel, raise funds, seek and acquire equipment and materials for their attacks and plan and carry out terrorist activities.

Fifthly, we must strengthen coordination and achieve counter-terrorism synergy within the United Nations system. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force is responsible for coordinating 38 international counter-terrorism entities. The Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate maintains regular contact with Member States with regard to the counter-terrorism situation. Those counter-terrorism entities provide important platforms for promoting international cooperation on counter-terrorism. The United Nations should fully unleash their potential and improve coordination and the division of labour among them, so as to maximize their contribution and utility.

Sixthly, we must promote dialogue among civilization and build a new type of international relations. The United Nations and the international community should actively promote dialogue among different civilizations and create an environment in which different ethnic groups, cultures and religions

treat one another equally and coexist in harmony. All countries must actively build a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at its core and maintain an international environment conducive to peace, stability and sustainable development and eliminate the breeding ground of terrorism.

As an important member of the international counter-terrorism community, China has been committed to fighting this scourge on both the domestic and international fronts. In December 2015, China promulgated a law on counter-terrorism. China will continue to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with the law and safeguard our national security and the safety and security of our people and their property. China will continue to actively participate in and promote multilateral and bilateral counterterrorism cooperation, working together with all countries to address terrorist threats, in order to make an even greater contribution to maintaining world peace and stability.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): Ten years ago we adopted by consensus the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was a major step forward for a coordinated, united, global response to the international terrorist threat. That strategy remains a vital reference point today. However, in the past decade terrorism has evolved, with new levels of barbarity and hatred. We need only look to the events this week in Turkey to be reminded that there can be absolutely no complacency. Those attacks serve to emphasize once again the need for a united international response to defeat those who seek to undermine our values and attack our way of life.

The review draft resolution A/70/L.55, which we will adopt this afternoon, is a basis for further action. But I must be frank: the draft resolution was an opportunity to raise our ambition and do more together to prevent and halt terrorism. Collectively, we could have done more. The United Nations needs to improve its performance in this area, and we are clear that we believe that that would benefit the entire membership. I know there are some who remain sceptical of change, but I would challenge those who were resistant in the negotiations to reconsider how we should proceed. I believe there are three areas on which we should focus.

First, we, the entire membership, each and every one of us, needs to play our part in defeating terrorism and combating violent extremism. That starts at home. The United Kingdom has implemented new legislation in line with its international obligations, updating measures to stop those travelling to join Da'esh and equipping law enforcement and local Government with the powers to tackle extremism. We must stop the spread of poisonous extremist views that foster grievance, isolation and intolerance. Our efforts include a counter-extremism strategy, which has committed to addressing all forms of extremism. Internationally, the United Kingdom plays, and will continue to play, a leading role in countering extremism. Besides military contributions, we lead — along with the United Arab Emirates and the United States — the Global Coalition Communications Cell, which is working to counter Da'esh narratives.

Secondly, the United Nations must now fulfil the vision and ambition proposed in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. We have all engaged in a robust discussion of the new and sometimes difficult policy ideas on preventing violent extremism. If implemented, we believe they can help protect vulnerable people from radicalization. There are still some disagreements, but such debate can only make our shared understanding of these challenges stronger. Therefore, we strongly welcome the proposal in the draft resolution for Member States to consider implementing the recommendations from the Secretary-General's Plan. We also echo the encouragement to all the relevant United Nations entities to implement recommendations aimed at mainstreaming preventing violent extremism to their work.

Thirdly, we must continue to push for a more coordinated, effective and strategic approach to countering terrorism by all the relevant United Nations entities. In the past two years, here in the Hall and at the Security Council, we have discussed many times our priorities, concerns, best practices and experiences in countering terrorism. Every Member State has a distinct viewpoint, yet all agree that counter-terrorism is a priority, and that the United Nations must do more. From that the United Kingdom takes a simple message: there is room for improvement. We must therefore return to the issue of the United Nations counter-terrorism bodies and coordination. We respect and value the work of all those United Nations staff, here and around the world, who strive to support Member States, analyse the terrorist threat and provide technical capacity-building. Their tireless efforts are a credit to this institution.

Their efforts can be further enhanced through more coordination, so that every United Nations entity is pulling in the same direction, avoiding duplication and maximizing the impact of our collective resources. They can be bolstered with more communication, with clear, strategic messages and policy guidance that can resonate around the world. And they can be strengthened by more cooperation, spearheaded by senior leadership engaged with counterparts from Member States and all the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations.

Yet recently — and today here in the Hall — we have heard that the time is not yet right for a substantive change to the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. Time for proper debate is vital, but we respectfully disagree; inaction cannot be a legitimate outcome of this debate, despite what others in this argument are saying. We therefore welcome the request for the Secretary-General to consult and provide concrete options on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system by May 2017. We look forward to his report with great interest.

I would like to conclude by joining others in thanking the review's co-facilitators, the Ambassador of Iceland and the Ambassador of Argentina, for running a professional, patient and efficient process. We could not have achieved this result without their tireless work and that of their experts.

Mr. Drake (Canada) (*spoke in French*): The 10-year review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides an opportunity to take stock of the efforts of the international community over the past decade. We have certainly made progress on many fronts; however, in spite of those achievements, global terrorism has escalated and its consequences have been exacerbated. Why has the global threat continued to grow in spite of our enhanced capacity to root out and fight terrorism? We do not have simple answers to these complex questions, but Canada believes that part of the problem lies in the orientation of our efforts. Until now, it has been aimed at reacting and implementing security measures. Today, we are more aware of the importance of stepping up social efforts and managing or preventing the emergence of violent extremism.

In 2006, we agreed that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be based on four pillars, each of which is key to the success of the entire effort. Nevertheless, the pillars have not been implemented equally. The Secretary-General sought to establish balance through his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, an initiative that Canada firmly supports. As we have established over the past month, in New York, Geneva and elsewhere, we will not succeed in putting an end to the spread of violent extremism, unless we eliminate the conditions that give rise to it.

(*spoke in English*)

Allow me to emphasize that it is Canada's conviction and experience that violent extremism is not particular to any specific region, religion, nationality, culture or ethnic group or any other marker. Manifestations of violent extremism occur across all cultures and regions. Let me also underscore that there can never be any excuse or justification for any act of terrorism. It is also Canada's experience that effectively addressing violent extremism means working from the bottom up with communities and civil society to build resilient societies in an atmosphere of peaceful pluralism. Supporting the empowerment of youth and women, as called for in Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), is central to those efforts.

Today is Canada's national day. On this day, we celebrate the diversity in our society as a source of strength. Inclusive and accountable governance that respects diversity and the human rights of all members of society fosters peaceful pluralism, social cohesion and constructive engagement among individuals and groups invested as members of their society. This is relevant to our debates today. Turning to the 10-year review of the United Nations Strategy, Canada would first like to thank the Ambassador of Iceland and the Ambassador of Argentina and their teams for their tireless efforts and resolve to seek a consensus document. We look forward to the adoption of draft resolution A/70/L.55 by consensus later today.

We welcome the General Assembly's recognition in its draft resolution of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and its recommendations as an important step forward. Canada stands ready to work together with the United Nations and others to assist in the implementation of its recommendations. However, while the text is a negotiated balance, like others, Canada is disappointed that this body has been unable to agree to language on many of the important areas where we believe global action is possible and necessary.

We are disappointed that the final draft resolution was not more streamlined to provide clarity and balance between the pillars of action of the Strategy. We would have wished to see stronger language in promoting the role and rights of women and youth, and we hoped for greater clarity on the way forward for United Nations architecture reform to enhance coordination of counter-terrorism efforts and address violent extremism. We look forward to having the new Secretary-General examine the proposals for architecture called for in the draft resolution. Canada will continue to advocate internationally — in the United Nations and elsewhere — for the critical action needed in this global effort. The United Nations must remain a key forum for unifying the international community and addressing this critical issue, and Canada will remain fully engaged in ensuring the effective implementation of this resolution.

Mr. Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine): At the outset, I would like to convey our deepest condolences to the Government of Turkey and to the families of the victims of the terrible terrorist attack in Istanbul.

The fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an important step forward in highlighting the emergent threats and evolving trends in international terrorism. It offers ways to enhance the implementation of our common obligations under all four pillars of the Strategy in order to ensure a more sustainable and effective process in the area of countering terrorism and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while fighting this threat; and to address underlying conditions conducive to its spread.

We would like to express our appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the co-facilitators of the review, the Ambassador of Argentina and the Ambassador of Iceland and their teams, to secure the best deal possible for the balanced draft resolution A/70/L.55 to cap the Strategy's 10-year anniversary review. However, we regret that the document that we are going to adopt later today could hardly be called an ambitious one, and it does not properly reflect major tendencies and advances in countering terrorism and violent extremism. Among those advances is the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, to which we gave our support, both during the debates in the General Assembly meeting in February and in the Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism held in Geneva in April.

In our view, the findings and recommendations of the Plan of Action were not fully taken into account in preparing draft resolution A/70/L.55. Punctually addressing the underlying factors that provide opportunities for violent extremism, and subsequently terrorism, to flourish, combined with military means, may become a viable solution for eliminating the ongoing outbreaks of such threats throughout the world.

We deem military invasions and prolonged, unresolved international conflicts to be among the major drivers of violent extremist and terrorist activities. Ukraine, unlike any other country, as a target of aggression of the Russian Federation, which began in February 2014 with the occupation of Crimea and continued with military aggression in Ukraine's Donbas, hardly concealed by the local puppet terrorist formations of the so-called Donetsk an Luhansk People's Republics, takes seriously the threat posed by violent extremism and terrorism. It is undeniable that the terrorist component of Russia's undeclared war against Ukraine is clearly visible and has emerged as an important phenomenon in the everyday life of the occupied areas in the eastern part of Ukraine.

The international community has witnessed numerous terrorist acts in the occupied areas of Ukraine, in particular the mass number of murders and hostage-taking, the downing of the civilian Malaysian Airlines Flight MH-17 and the shelling of civilians in Ukrainian cities, notwithstanding the Minsk agreements on a peaceful settlement of the conflict. It has also been evident that Russia has discredited itself as a predictable and reliable international player because of its efforts to export terrorism to Ukraine. Among the facts brought to the attention of the international community, both in the framework of the United Nations and that of other international and regional organizations, are the continued supply of weapons to terrorists, the organizing of their recruitment and training in Russian territory and their transfer to the eastern part of Ukraine to strengthen the combat capabilities of local terrorists.

Ukraine also submitted that information in its national capacity for the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/70/674). To our great regret, this year's report does not contain an integral section — an annex on Member States efforts to advance the Strategy. We expect that the Russian Federation will follow the draft resolution's call to refrain from organizing, instigating, facilitating, participating in, financing, encouraging

or tolerating terrorist activities, and stop using its own territory for the training of terrorists and the preparation or organization of terrorist acts in Ukraine. By doing so, the Russian Federation will return to normal and peaceful activity, not as a rogue State but as valuable partner of the international community. That will significantly contribute to implementing the Strategy.

We fully recognize the key role of the United Nations in preventing and countering terrorist activities. Ensuring the effective implementation of the Strategy requires closer cooperation among Member States and all of the counter-terrorism agencies and bodies of the United Nations family. Yet present-day terrorist organizations, such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Qaida, have grown beyond what once was a regional menace into a global threat challenging international peace and security. That requires further enhancement of the cooperation and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism activities across the four pillars of the Strategy, both at Headquarters and in the field.

We were disappointed that no feasible proposal was given by the Secretariat. That sent a dissuading signal to the United Nations membership. Moreover, owing to the flat position of several delegations, an immediate tuning-up of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, alongside the decision of the current review, was characterized by procrastination. As the majority of representatives suggested during the negotiations on the final draft document of the Review and in these debates, we too would prefer to appoint a high-ranking coordinator for the implementation of the Global Strategy. That would fully correspond to the proposed all-of-UN approach, whereby a functionary with "one ring to rule them all" would ensure that the Organization is capable of providing strategic planning and wide-ranging management of its programmes on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, conductinga robust analysis of terrorism threats, assessing Member State's vulnerabilities and overseeing the delivery of international technical assistance in that area. The United Nations counter-terrorism architecture would thereby be able to withstand the current challenges posed by terrorism and provide Member States with the international assistance needed, including by mobilizing the necessary resources for such projects.

We expect that comprehensive options of respective institutional arrangements will be submitted by May 2017 for prompt consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

In concluding my statement, I would like once again assure you, Sir, of Ukraine's determination to support global efforts aimed at fighting international terrorism and increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations system to that end.

Mr. Alhakim (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation welcomes the tireless efforts of the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representative of Iceland and the Permanent Representative of Argentina, and their teams to bring positions closer together during the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We align ourselves with the statement made earlier by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Given its extra-territorial nature and manifold forms and manifestations, terrorism affects people's lives in numerous ways, while its international nature poses a challenge to the legal and moral framework that guide the international community. Today, Iraq is defending that legal and moral framework on behalf of other countries throughout the world. The number of victims of terrorism in Iraq from 2003 to 2016 has reached approximately 177,000 martyrs. Da'esh and other terrorist groups target the various different segments of the Iraqi population, with the aim of weakening the stability of the country, unending national cohesion, sowing discord among Iraqis and spreading extremist ideas that run counter to the precepts of Islam and humankind.

Our experience in the fight against terrorism leads us to reaffirm the importance of international cooperation and of Member States respecting their commitments in line with Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), with regard to preventing the general and logistical financing of Da'esh armed groups and the trafficking of oil, arms and cultural property in Iraq and in Syria.

The Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee has taken stock of the priority needs in Iraq on the legal, operational and institutional levels in the fight against terrorism, culminating in the appropriation of funds to strengthen its counter-terrorism capacities. We call on the international community to meaningfully provide financial resources to reinforce operational and

the technical capacities of Iraq with regard to counter-terrorism efforts.

We also encourage the international community to provide the greatest possible assistance for rehabilitating and reintegrating victims of terrorism and extremism through training and support programmes to help them leave their physical and psychological suffering behind. We therefore welcome the provisions contained in draft resolution A/70/L.55, to be adopted this afternoon, on developing and implementing programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism and on countering violent extremism.

Violent terrorist groups, such as Da'esh, conduct the most abject acts of terror in the name of Islam, while Islam has nothing to do with the group's barbaric ideas and acts. The United Nations, through the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, is duty-bound to define and root out the sources of such extremist ideas, raise awareness among Member States of the legal mechanisms that must be put in place to eradicate rogue takfiri ideology and encourage the participation of Member States and religious leaders in finding an alternative to the extremist narrative that is being spread locally and worldwide, while also implementing best practices and lessons learned.

We support draft resolution A/70/L.55 and thank the Secretary-General for his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Iraq will make every effort, in coordination with Member States and the United Nations, to implement the Plan of Action, given that Iraq is the country that has been affected the most and is the most directly impacted by the phenomenon of violent extremism, including international terrorism, which is a key extremist tool being used throughout the world.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

nothing but narrow political purposes that serve to delegitimize my country.

I would like to reiterate again that Israel cares very much about the draft resolution. Having stood at the forefront of terror on a daily basis for over 68 years, we know what terror is and how important it is to counter it. I am aware that for many in the Hall, it has become normal for a certain group of countries to constantly insist on attacking my country at every opportunity, regardless of the issue or its importance. Too many of us have become so accustomed to the demand to satisfy every whim of one observer that, instead of putting the blame on those who pollute every discussion and every draft resolution with demands for language that should be dealt with in other forums, some choose instead to blame Israel for not allowing itself to be singled out.

Let me be clear. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is dealt with at the United Nations in many forums. A few hours ago, the Quartet came out with its report (S/2016/595, annex). Yesterday, a discussion on the issue was held in the Security Council and another is planned in two weeks' time. The issue at hand, therefore, is not a country's sympathy for the Palestinian people or one's view on how to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict that we all desperately aspire to, but the insistence by a certain group to make every meeting, every negotiation and every event into a mini-meeting of the Security Council and an anti-Israel matter. Unfortunately, there are many conflicts around the world that need to be resolved, but only on one conflict does a group of countries insist on constantly obstructing discussion, contaminating dialogue and wasting the valuable time of all of us.

Much is at stake for each and every delegation here, including mine, and for the international community as a whole. For Israel, countering terror is all too real and a daily reality, and we are unfortunately too familiar with it and its related phenomena. Israel fights and counters terror shoulder to shoulder with many of the States in this Hall and assists in many regions throughout the world with trainings and the sharing of expertise. We attach great importance to this topic, and Israel will continue to be an integral part of the counter-terror efforts at the United Nations. We will continue to work closely with our partners in this Hall.

Out of respect for the issue at hand, for the facilitators' work, for our many colleagues who have worked so hard and for the efforts of the President of the General Assembly and his staff, we have decided not to call for a recorded vote. However, Israel would like to disassociate itself from the thirty-third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, which states,

> "Reaffirming Member States' determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and the rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures".

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position before action is taken on draft resolution A/70/L.55.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.55, entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt it?

Draft resolution A/70/L.55 was adopted (resolution 70/291).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Ms. Lodhi (Pakistan): My country, Pakistan, has made huge sacrifices in the fight against terrorism — sacrifices that must be valued by fully committing ourselves to defeating this scourge. This commitment has been reflected in the constructive spirit with which my delegation engaged in the review process. It is also the reason why we joined the consensus on resolution 70/291. For us, it was important to send a strong and united message against the scourge of terrorism on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Despite differences of view, we have been able to reinforce our collective commitment to addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism and all drivers of violent extremism in a balanced manner. For us, this approach rests on promoting a culture of peace at all levels, as reflected in the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, adopted consensually by Member States at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly. This consensus included, inter alia, resolution of conflicts, the full realization of the right to self-determination enshrined

in the Charter of the United Nations, the elimination all forms of discrimination, including xenophobia, and discouraging and deterring unilateral measures that violate the United Nations Charter.

The linkage to this consensual document and the resolution adopted today will guide our way forward to the preventive approach to terrorism and violent extremism. Also helpful in this regard was the joint determination of Member States, now reflected in resolution 70/291, to address some of the most pervasive root causes of terrorism and violent extremism, including the resolution of conflicts, both protracted and new, ending foreign occupation, confronting oppression, promoting the rule of law and ensuring respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures.

The resolution stresses that when counter-terrorism efforts neglect the rule of law at the national and international levels and violate international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and fundamental freedoms, they not only betray the values they seek to uphold, but they can also fuel violent extremism. In this regard, the Secretary-General, in his remarks yesterday, also said, "When we fail to uphold the values that unite us, we end up feeding the grievances that can lead to terrorism" (*A/70/PV.108, p.8*).

Pakistan has repeatedly emphasized this aspect in the context of the use of drone strikes that violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States, seriously undermining the fundamental rights of innocent victims and further fuelling terrorism and violent extremism. We strongly condemn these unlawful measures and demand their immediate cessation. The continuation of these drone strikes reflects a blatant disregard for our unequivocal and existing commitments on the use of remotely piloted aircraft, as set forth in the resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

With that in view, Pakistan proposed several paragraphs to strengthen the resolution regarding the legality and humanitarian aspect of the use of drones. We thank the large number of delegations that supported these proposals. It is unfortunate, however, that we were not able to make the desired progress in the resolution adopted. In the spirit of maintaining consensus, my delegation agreed to noting the report of the Special Rapporteur on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, while countering terrorism on the use of drones, including its conclusions and recommendations. We believe that this is an important first step towards addressing the legal questions related to the use of drones, the consequent violation of the fundamental rights of victims and lack of respect for the principles of distinction and proportionality in their use.

Pakistan welcomes the significant progress made in strengthening most areas of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including measures against foreign terrorist fighters and the counter-financing of terrorism, strengthening the role of youth, women and civil society, emphasis on education, a robust criminal justice system, preventing access to illegal arms and weapons, countering terrorist narratives and a renewed focus on capacity-building and assistance to Member States upon their request by the United Nations system. We are therefore satisfied that we have been able to preserve these important developments by maintaining consensus on the resolution.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

I would like to congratulate everyone on the adoption of resolution 70/291 and to thank all Member States for their constructive engagement throughout this important process. Of course, I would also like to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Argentina, His Excellency Mr. Martín García Moritán, and the Permanent Representative of Iceland, His Excellency Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, for their commitment and leadership during the negotiations.

Today's message by the General Assembly is indeed a strong indication of our collective commitment to enhancing cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism. Today, we have a sent a message to the world that the pain, suffering and destruction being caused by terrorism is not just a major concern for all of us, but a matter that we are addressing as a matter of priority.

We shall now continue with the remaining speakers on the list for this agenda item.

Mr. Ávila (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). In order to respect the time limit allotted to us, we will deliver a condensed version of our statement, and make the full and final version available to all present.

Let me start by thanking Their Excellencies Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, and Ambassador Martin García Moritán, Permanent Representative of Argentina, and their teams for the dedication and skill with which they led the fifth review process.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly in 2006 marked a significant advance in the fight against terrorism because Member States recognized the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in the Plan of Action outlining his approach to the fight against global terrorism beyond policing and security aspects. Ten years later, CELAC reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as the most effective way to end the threat of terrorism while ensuring full respect for the rule of law and respect for human rights. The terrible attacks perpetrated in Turkey this week make it even more important to recommit to the Strategy and its full and effective implementation.

In that regard, CELAC takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/826) on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. CELAC shares the concern expressed by the Secretary-General in his report with regard to the spread of violent extremism, and accordingly recognizes the need to pay greater attention to the issue of terrorist groups using social media to communicate. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States acknowledges the important role played by civil society in the fight against terrorism and the need to fully respect the rights of freedom of expression and association. In that regard, we encourage Member States to prevent the abuse by and for terrorists of non-governmental, not-for-profit and charitable organizations.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States emphasizes that only those measures taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international norms can be successful and enjoy the broad support of the international community. In that respect, CELAC recalls resolution 70/148 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, adopted by consensus on 17 December 2015. Our community vigorously rejects the use of information and communication technologies in violation of international law and directed against any Member State, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the use of such technologies be fully compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular with regard to sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, the right to privacy and the internationally recognized norms pertaining to peaceful coexistence among States.

In the context of the fight against global terrorism, the countries of CELAC reiterate their commitment to intensifying international efforts aimed at safeguarding cyberspace and promoting its exclusive use for peaceful purposes. On a similar note, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States also rejects the unilateral establishment of blacklists of States that allegedly support and sponsor terrorism. Regarding the establishment of the sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and Da'esh by the Security Council as a means of fighting terrorism, our countries recognize the measures taken by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, which is aimed at achieving more effective, inclusive and participatory working methods, and clear and transparent procedures. In that regard, CELAC strongly supports the role of the Ombudsperson, which has significantly improved the fairness and transparency of the exclusion process.

CELAC strongly condemns the recruitment and use of children to carry out terrorist attacks, as well as violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children, and notes that such violations may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity. The Community of Latin American and the Caribbean States also stresses that the proliferation of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, among other phenomena, can also fuel terrorism.

CELAC also wishes to acknowledge the important work carried out by regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of the Strategy. In that regard, we urge the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry out capacity-building activities in our region and to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, and taking into account the individual needs and national priorities of our countries, in order to improve the international legal counter-terrorism framework, our group of countries is convinced that a comprehensive convention against international terrorism is necessary. CELAC therefore

calls on Member States at the seventy-first session to again address the outstanding issues that have impeded the achivement of that essential agreement.

Lastly, the members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States reaffirm their profound solidarity with the victims of terrorist acts and emphasize the need to provide them with all necessary support. CELAC also reiterates the need to prevent impunity for those who commit terrorist acts, with a view to providing justice to the victims and their families. In that regard, we call on Member States to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with international law.

Mr. Gunnarsson (Iceland): Allow me to thank you, Sir, for overseeing the process of the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with your characteristic patience, good humour and firmness of purpose. I would also like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General for his strong leadership in bringing us to focus on countering violent extremism.

It has been my great honour and that of my colleague and friend Ambassador García Moritán to have conducted the facilitation of resolution 70/291 on the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on your behalf, with the added and very important task of discussing and taking into account the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674). I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all delegations for the professional, friendly and constructive manner in which negotiations have been conducted. Allow me to say that those representatives were extremely able and tough in defending their national positions. They gave nothing away for free, except for the very constructive and friendly spirit that allowed us to reach a consensus. Allow me also to also thank the Secretary-General's excellent team and the Secretariat for their highly professional and skilful support throughout our work.

Vicious terrorist attacks demonstrate with devastating regularity the scale and urgency of our task. From the highly organized mass murder in Istanbul to the recent brutal murder of an Israeli child in her bed, we are faced with a vortex of hatred fuelled by violent extremism and equipped with an arsenal of modern weapons and techniques. Africa and the Middle East bear the brunt of terrorism and its destabilizing and corrosive effects on the lives of millions of individuals and whole communities, but there is virtually no country left untouched. Our citizens all share a common experience as victims or potential victims of terrorism, and it is our common responsibility as Governments and human beings to address these issues together.

All our societies potentially harbour individuals who instigate and nurture ideologies that can be turned into a justification for violence and terrorism. We do not have to look far from this Hall to see regular events of mass murder fuelled by a wide variety of warped doctrines. Our challenge is to root out the complex webs of tacit or active support, sympathy and encouragement, which are often hard to identify.

The level of sophistication available through new technologies presents us with new challenges and demands of us a united and sophisticated response to terrorism and the drivers of terrorism. The Secretary-General's report (s/2016/627, on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) paints a frightening picture of the sophistication of ISIL and other similar movements in manipulating young people through the use of visual and social media. The report makes the point that the journey of each individual fighter into terrorist activity involves a unique combination of factors. There is no simple approach to identifying potential terrorists, much less a silver bullet to stop them from being radicalized and recruited in the first place.

It is therefore absolutely vital that the United Nations demonstrate a singleness of purpose. Iceland believes that the resolution adopted today is a step towards improving coordination within the United Nations of how we address terrorism and violent extremism. But there will be more work to do, particularly on architecture. We need to be honest about identifying the internal and external drivers of violent extremism and terrorism. This includes ensuring that all measures are in line with international human rights instruments. As has already been highlighted, Sustainable Development Goal 16 has a major role to play in addressing the drivers of terrorism. If we do not do that work, then we will be fighting with one hand tied behind our back.

Mr. García-Larrache (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Spain aligns itself with the statement delivered this morning by the representative of the European Union (see A/70/PV.109). We thank the Ambassadors of Argentina and Iceland and their respective teams for their efforts to reach an acceptable resolution.

On the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it is important to recall the message conveyed by the Secretary-General yesterday at the beginning of the debate. We must work together with strong determination to defeat terrorism, without interference from specific political agendas. Only in that way will the Global Strategy be a truly effective instrument.

Resolution 70/291, adopted today, contains positive elements that have been duly spelled out by the European Union. They include the identification of a phenomenon that has emerged as one of the main threats to international peace and security — foreign terrorist combatants. The General Assembly's inclusion of some elements of Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) is a positive development, as are the paragraphs devoted to highlighting the essential role of women in the fight against terrorism and the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and especially those that address law enforcement and criminal justice. Only through the law in its entirety, with full respect for the rule of law and human rights, can we defeat terrorism without sacrificing the fundamental values of our societies. We commend the mention of the threat to peace and security posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and the use of improvised explosive devices. However, we would have appreciated an explicit reference to the role played by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in that regard.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

I wish to highlight what in our view will constitute one of the key elements of the resolution — the recommendation that the Secretary-General begin the implementation of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674). We must make full use of this mandate to leverage all of the tools of the United Nations and its Member States in order to implement the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action, which will be very effective in eliminating terrorism even before it manifests.

Nevertheless, we must point out certain deficiencies in the resolution. We believe that we have missed a good opportunity to strengthen the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. The appointment of a high-level coordinator for the prevention of violent extremism would have strengthened the Organization's capacity in that regard. We also regret that the General Assembly did not further contemplate the role that victims can and, indeed, do play in preventing and countering violent extremism, putting an end to the cycle of hatred and strengthening the role of rule of law institutions.

In conclusion, I reiterate that the resolution enhances our opportunities to implement the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. We will need the resolute action of all for it to be truly effective.

Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico would like to convey its heartfelt condolences to the Republic of Turkey for the criminal attacks that occurred in Istanbul a few days ago.

We recognize the commitment and work of the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Iceland and their respective teams in facilitating the consultative process leading up to the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Mexico deems it critical to coordinate a more efficient and comprehensive response to terrorism, always through dialogue. The tragic events of this week remind us of the urgent need for the United Nations to address this scourge effectively, and they highlight the critical importance of this debate.

Over the years, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has become a reference point for coordinating the international community's cooperative effort to prevent and combat the threat of international terrorism. As Member States, we have benefited from the Strategy, which has allowed us, inter alia, to build and create capacity and to share best practices. However, after four biannual review processes, we also recognize the need to fully implement the Strategy's four pillars, which have not been given due attention — owing not to intentional omission, but rather to the need to address immediate priorities.

We have recently seen terrorist groups evolve and adapt in response to our efforts to put an end to their activities. Their operational characteristics and recruitment, communication and financing methodologies have spread their extremist ideologies among certain groups, particularly among young people, which has led to more violence and intolerance. Consequently, and aware of the urgent need to understand and address those new phenomena, Mexico reiterates its support for the Strategy's focus on prevention. The creation, promotion and enhancement of non-coercive means that effectively prevent individuals or groups

from mobilizing towards the commission of terrorist acts require us to also address the political, social and economic grievances these groups use to justify their actions.

On the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Member States are building a new paradigm for peace through development. The concept of "sustaining peace", adopted both by the General Assembly and the Security Council, is a landmark in defining how we will tackle security challenges in our communities. A society with a healthy and inclusive social fabric and where the rule of law and human rights prevail will be less prone to outbreaks of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Mexico once again welcomes the presentation of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), insofar as it illustrates the connection between the development, security and human-rights agendas. We must give priority to strengthening and complementing these agendas by promoting tolerance, respect for cultural, social and religious diversity, and above all, the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups in our societies — women and young people — in order for them to become active agents in building the society in which they want to live. However, as we have said before, we must avoid conflating the concepts of violent extremism and terrorism, as doing so may result in an overly broad interpretation of counter-terrorism measures and potentially against actions that could not be described as terrorist acts under any circumstances.

In Mexico, we have favoured a preventive approach by combating extreme poverty and by promoting education, universal access to health services, social inclusion, tolerance, gender equality, sustainable development and measures to prevent violence. Those social development efforts are in addition to those that my country's high-level specialized committee on international disarmament, terrorism and security is making to strengthen our domestic legislation and comply with Mexico's international obligations in that area. The committee serves to ensure that coordinated measures are taken to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism within the national territory, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Ten years on, the international community is facing an unprecedented challenge. There is obviously an urgent need for the United Nations to come up with effective and comprehensive short-, medium- and long-term responses to the threat of terrorism that also prevent messages of hatred and discrimination from encouraging expressions of violent extremism that lead to terrorism. We take the opportunity afforded by this review process to reiterate that efforts to prevent and combat terrorism must always be multilateral and that they must respect human rights, without stigmatizing any population group. Otherwise, our societies will be involved in xenophobic confrontations. Racism, discrimination and stigmatization of social groups foster terrorism.

Finally, it is imperative that we adopt a convention against terrorism once and for all. The reality of our times does not allow us the luxury of continuing to postpone the matter. My delegation hopes that the General Assembly and the United Nations as a whole will be up to the task of confronting this scourge and that we will effectively implement the resolution that we have adopted here today.

Mr. Reyes Rodríguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba strongly supports the collective efforts of the United Nations in its fight against terrorism. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes a milestone in the international fight against this scourge. The Strategy respects the central role of the General Assembly in that endeavour. We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Iceland and their respective teams in coordinating the process we have concluded. We also thank all delegations that demonstrated the political will to move forward towards our common goal.

Cuba reiterates its unwavering determination to combat terrorism, as well as its deepest rejection and condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations by whomever, against whomsoever and wherever they are committed, regardless of their motivation, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved. The international community must not accept that, under the banner of the supposed fight against terrorism, any State may commit acts of aggression, interfere in the internal affairs of other States, commit or allow flagrant violations of human rights and humanitarian law, such as torture, kidnapping, illegal detention, disappearance or extrajudicial execution. Cuba rejects double standards and unilateral actions contrary to the

Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law.

Wherever legal and ethical principles are violated, extremist ideologies find fertile soil and the legitimacy of our fight against international terrorism is undermined. Hatred, revenge and terror have no place in the just and equitable international order that we are fighting to establish. Resolution 70/291 includes advances in the area of international cooperation against terrorism. Matters of particular importance are addressed, such as neutralizing the abuse of information and communication technologies in support of terrorism and promoting the constructive use of those technologies in line with international law, respect for privacy, ensuring that the use of remotely piloted aircraft fully complies with international law, and the rejection of any practices inconsistent with international law under the pretext of combating terrorism.

The resolution highlights the dialogue and understanding among cultures and civilizations and gives priority to the prevention of this scourge. Certain States' harmful practice of financing and promoting messages of intolerance and hatred of other peoples, cultures and political systems through the Internet, radio or television, in clear violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, deserves our most resolute condemnation.

In assessing the progress made during this review, Cuba recognizes that much remains to be done in the fight against terrorism. The international community must take concrete steps towards the adoption of a comprehensive convention on terrorism that defines that scourge in its entirety. It is not acceptable to associate a particular religion, race or ethnicity with terrorism. There is a need to address the causes and conditions that may foster terrorism. Poverty, inequality, poor health, illiteracy, discrimination, desires for hegemony and domination, among many other factors, are core causes of the proliferation of this scourge. The international community's efforts must also be aimed at tackling the root causes of terrorism.

Protecting the victims of terrorism is a priority. States are called upon to fulfil their international obligations without double standards, including the obligation to prosecute and extradite all terrorists, without distinctions of any kind. The Cuban people demands that the impunity enjoyed by the terrorist responsible for the in-flight explosion of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft on 6 October 1976 — resulting in the death of the flight's 73 passengers — come to an end.

Allow me to conclude by emphasizing Cuba's support for multilateral efforts to strengthen the central role of the General Assembly in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The General Assembly and all Member States can count on our full participation in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Taula (New Zealand): Global terrorism is by no means a new phenomenon. However, the scope of the threat it poses today, 10 years after the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, is unprecedented. Hardly a week passes without attacks that carry a significant human cost. Since the last review (see A/68/PV.94 *et seq.*), the Security Council, the General Assembly and other relevant bodies, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, have taken significant steps. Those steps include suppressing terrorism financing, countering terrorist narratives and addressing the evolving threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. We are encouraged by the increased recognition of the essential role of women, youth, civil society and local communities in counter-terrorism activities.

There have also been positive developments in the effective and transparent use of sanctions. This has been a feature of New Zealand's work as Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. New Zealand strongly supports the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674). One of his clear messages is that we need to work with youth and communities to effectively address the factors that give rise to violent extremism. Engagement with local communities is a key pillar of New Zealand's approach.

We are acutely aware that marginalized groups and individuals have a greater chance of being reintegrated at the local level than through a top-heavy, Government-imposed approach. We do not accept that terrorism and violent extremism can be overcome by Governments alone. The United Nations has a number of tools at its disposal and is uniquely placed to ensure a coordinated response to this common threat. Going forward, we must continue to assess whether the structures and

processes that we have in place are fit for purpose. As the methods employed by terrorist groups continue to evolve, so must the methods of the United Nations.

Negotiations on resolution 70/291, adopted this afternoon, have demonstrated once again that terrorism is a highly political issue. We think that this review has been a valuable process, and we recognize that the text of the resolution represents a compromise for many States. Nevertheless, we are heartened that Member States have been able to come together to discuss these issues. The international community must be united in the face of today's terrorist threat, and New Zealand is committed to playing its part.

Ms. Wilson (Australia): I would like to thank the delegations of Argentina and Iceland for their tireless efforts as co-facilitators of the review process. No one envied their challenging task. A decade after the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, few people today could say their lives have gone untouched by the threat posed by terrorism. This tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Strategy and the tragic terrorist attacks occurring around the world today should serve as a reminder of the task at hand and a call to all of us to implement a decisive course of global action on combating terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Preventing and responding to terrorism and violent extremism — and to those that espouse its ideology — are global responsibilities. United Nations conventions and resolutions have set valuable international standards to guide our efforts, including robust and effective sanctions regimes. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is critical to our efforts. I wish to briefly touch upon a few key positive elements of the Strategy, but, in doing so, I underline the priority Australia affords to a balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy.

The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is having an impact on many Member States represented in the Hall today, and Australia is not immune. The increased attention in the Strategy resolution to foreign terrorist fighters reflects the gravity of the threat. We need to follow through on the recommendations contained in resolution 70/291 to enhance international cooperation and develop effective measures to counter the threat. Australia continues to advocate for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and is working to strengthen the capacity of partners within our region.

As we develop our responses to terrorism and violent extremism, we need to work on and look more closely at them from the perspective of women. Globally, women are among the greatest victims of violent extremism and terrorism. Some are themselves becoming radicalized, conspiring or engaging in terrorism and violent extremism. The resolution's recognition of the important role played by women underscores the critical role of women and women's groups in bringing peace to their communities. It also recognizes that women suffer disproportionately from the consequences of radicalization, terrorist activities and conflict more broadly.

We know that the global terrorist threat cannot be defeated by security solutions alone. We cannot arrest our way out of this problem. That is why it was critical that the resolution explicitly link the Secretary-General's Plan of Action for Preventing Violent Extremism (A/70/674) with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Member States recognize that we cannot afford to wait until people have already become radicalized and turned to violence.

This recognition is in line with Australia's approach to countering and preventing violent extremism, intervening early and tackling the cause of the problem while drawing on the strength of local communities and civil society. Well-informed and well-resourced communities and institutions are among our best defence against acts of violent extremism. We encourage Member States to develop national plans of action for preventing violent extremism. Nationally developed plans ensure that national sovereignty is respected, that national drivers of violent extremism are addressed and that national ownership becomes paramount.

In conclusion, Australia has been a staunch supporter of United Nations efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. The United Nations can be only as effective as its institutional arrangements allow it to be. This tenth anniversary resolution should have provided the opportunity to enhance the architecture in order to enable it to meet the growing needs of Member States. This situation needs to be remedied in the course of the seventieth session of the General Assembly. We will strongly support proposals that facilitate better United Nations system-wide coordination when options are presented in May.

Mr. Minami (Japan): Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to President Lykketoft for convening today's important debate on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My appreciation also goes to the delegations of Argentina and Iceland for their tremendous efforts in facilitating the review discussion.

From the beginning of this year, we have witnessed terrorist attacks all over the world almost every week. This means that the threat of terrorism remains very high, even after the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. On this occasion, Japan strongly condemns the heinous terrorist attacks that took place at the Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul, Turkey on 28 June. We express our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the victims and their families.

The adoption of resolution 70/291 by consensus today reaffirms the commitment of all States Members of the United Nations to combating terrorism and violent extremism. Japan has been strengthening its counter-terrorism efforts. We have not only introduced an advanced passenger information and passenger name record system, but we have also used biometric tools to secure border control. Moreover, we have been contributing to INTERPOL databases.

Japan hosted the Group of Seven (G-7) Summit at the end of May. Together with other leaders, it formulated the G-7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. No one country can fight terrorism alone. Terrorism is a global phenomenon. Foreign terrorist fighters travel to the Middle East and Africa to join the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist groups and return to their countries of origin. Lone-wolf terrorists attack civilians in their home countries, whether or not they are directed to do so by terrorist groups, including ISIL. We have to make collective efforts, both domestically and internationally, to combat terrorism and violent extremism. In that context, I welcome the resolution, which engages civil society, local communities, non-Governmental organizations, women, youth and other stakeholders.

Before closing, allow me to touch upon institutional arrangements. We strongly support enhanced cooperation among the relevant entities in order to effectively combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism, including by streamlining existing entities. Today is a landmark day to renew our commitment to counter-terrorism, but this is not the end. Our goal is to implement the resolution. I urge all Member States to take concrete actions on the basis of the Strategy and the review.

Mr. Tenya Hasegawa (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to convey my condolences to the delegations of Turkey and Cameroon and, through you, Sir, to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured in the terrorist attacks in Istanbul and Yakana, which Peru condemns in the strongest terms.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the States members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and thanks their Excellencies Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, and Ambassador Martín García Moritán, Permanent Representative of Argentina and their respective teams for the dedicated manner in which they have guided this arduous and delicate process of biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Since 2006, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has been a valuable tool against this scourge. Today, which marks its 10 years of existence, as we continue to witness and suffer the painful consequences of terrorist acts, the Strategy is more relevant than ever. It is therefore our responsibility to update it in the face of new challenges and to equip it with new tools to address those challenges. The Strategy must be implemented in a coordinated and comprehensive manner that ensures balance among all its pillars, in accordance with Member States' obligations under international law, human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. That coherence must be translated into conceptual work and practical implementation at the national, regional and international levels.

We also believe it important and necessary to refer to the threat posed by violent extremism, which can lead to terrorism. In that regard, Peru has received with great interest the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), which addresses the need to mitigate the structural and circumstantial factors that foster the radicalization of individuals. In particular, we attach special importance to the recommendation on reducing inequalities and strengthening the social fabric. It is therefore a matter of preventing the radicalization of individuals and including them in society. In that context, we stress the importance of bringing national development

policies into line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), including Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 16.

Strengthening customs and financial intelligence work and increasing cooperation are critical to combating terrorism financing mechanisms, which are often created by other criminal activities, such as trafficking in drugs, weapons, natural resources and cultural material, among others. In that regard, we must prevent and combat any links between terrorism and transnational organized crime. We must also recall that terrorist groups use or misuse various civil society forums to disseminate and propagate their terrorist ideologies, seeking to recruit new adherents, attract financing and even justify their own actions as well as those taken by their leaders. Therefore, with full respect for the freedom of expression and association, we must prevent terrorist organizations' abuse of civil society organizations.

My delegation recalls the importance of finalizing the process of formulating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, as well as that of discussions on the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In that regard, efforts to conclude a comprehensive convention must be redoubled. I pledge the unwavering support of my delegation and reaffirm Peru's commitment to combating the threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. Mminele (South Africa): I thank you, Sir, for giving my delegation the floor and for presiding over the fifth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. At the outset, allow me to assure you of my delegation's support. South Africa would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (A/70/826) and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), both of which provide useful recommendations for Member States to consider in the development of their national plans of action.

As previous speakers have already mentioned, this event marks the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provides Member States with a credible, holistic and flexible mechanism to counter terrorism. Attacks on the African continent and across the globe, most recently in Turkey, have shown that no country is immune from terrorism. We have seen the brutality and hatred espoused by terrorist organizations, which control territory and have access to vast resources, as well as by single-minded, radicalized individuals who, in their belief that they are right, indiscriminately use violent methods to sow fear and discord in communities. Now more than ever, the increasing complexity of the terrorist threat requires new and innovative approaches to addressing that threat and the conditions that give rise to it.

The work of the United Nations and its structures in support of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by Member States, as well as the Organization's efforts to find ways of countering these new and emerging threats, underscore its pivotal, leadership role in the international campaign against terrorism. My delegation continues to support a counter-terrorism approach that places the United Nations at the centre of international efforts to find solutions to tackle this threat. The Organization retains a vital role in the exchange of information, experiences and best practices.

Moreover, my delegation also supports initiatives that will improve coordination and cooperation among United Nations counter-terrorism entities and between the United Nations and regional structures. However, we are of the view that the establishment of any new mechanism should be weighed on the basis of its potential to contribute to facilitating and assisting international efforts to counter terrorism, instead of duplicating work already being done in other structures.

South Africa prefers the adoption of a consensus resolution because we believe that it will ensure a holistic and multifaceted approach to countering the scourge of terrorism. It will also address emerging threats and challenges within the framework of human rights and the rule of law. We are firm in our belief that terrorism cannot be defeated militarily and cannot be dealt with solely through the use of force or coercive measures. To counter the narratives and ideologies of terrorism in the medium to long terms, international cooperation must also address the factors that give rise to terrorism.

There is an urgent need to understand and address the conditions and contexts that make terrorism an attractive option to the disaffected. There is also a continued need for the global community to address long-standing conflicts in accordance with international law and international human rights law. Unresolved, those conflicts could become the incubators of

terrorism. However, terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggles of national liberation movements for self-determination and statehood, as provided for in numerous resolutions of the Assembly. The struggles for human dignity and equality and the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms cannot be conflated with terrorism, extremism and violent extremism.

In addition, my delegation believes that extremism in itself deserves attention as it may be a precursor to violent extremism and terrorism. It should therefore be addressed on an equal footing and with the same emphasis. The international community should maintain its commitment to its objectives to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and prosperity for all.

Engagement — including through education, eliminating inequalities and working with disadvantaged groups of society, particularly young people, and developing appropriate strategies at the national, regional and international levels — remains critical. That has informed both South Africa's national counter-terrorism strategy and the counter-terrorism strategy for the Southern African region. The institutionalized cooperation between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council presents an ideal opportunity to strengthen cooperation in countering terrorism, based on the specific requirements of the continent.

In conclusion, terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization. We therefore welcome and support initiatives and efforts that promote dialogue, tolerance, diversity and understanding among peoples, cultures and religions. Acts of mobilization directed against individuals, communities or nations simply because of their faith, language or race cannot be justified. I would like to reiterate my delegation's commitment to continuing to work within the United Nations and other multilateral structures to seek ways of countering the threat posed to international peace and security by terrorist acts effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Elshinawy (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, and Mr. Martín García Moritán, Permanent Representative of Argentina, and their team for their efforts to facilitate the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

This year's review has been conducted in circumstances that differ from those of any previous years. We have recently seen terrorism continue to renew its financial and operational tools. Since the range of countries where terrorists acts have been perpetrated has greatly increased, the international community, especially the United Nations, must address that mounting danger in a different manner. We must consider the root causes of terrorism and stand against all terrorist groups without differentiation and with due respect for international law.

While the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review considers violent extremism, many people have noted that it has not focused on all the circumstances or root causes that promote it. Many countries have agreed to implement the Secretary-General's recommendations, but that is not always possible because of a lack of financing. In addition, the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) does contains no suggestion as to how we might facilitate the financing of such actions and measures.

We have adopted by consensus resolution 70/291, which sends a strong message to terrorist organizations that we are all committed to fighting this scourge. The resolution contains important provisions, including with respect to foreign terrorist fighters, the financing of terrorism and the use of telecommunications for the purposes of terrorism. The resolution also addresses the link between terrorism and criminal organizations, as well as the root causes of terrorism. The resolution takes note of the Security Council's request to the Counter-Terrorism Committee to prepare a proposal for a comprehensive international framework by April 2017. It also seeks to prevent charity organizations from being used for the purposes of funding terrorism.

Paragraph 33 calls on Member States to prevent refugee status from being abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts. Paragraph 40 recalls that the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism gives States and organizations the discretion to do whatever they deem appropriate in order to implement the measures according to their national strategies and policies. The resolution also calls on States to redouble their efforts to coordinate their actions and measures with the Secretariat.

In conclusion, the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt reiterates that defeating terrorism requires

political will and a comprehensive, holistic approach to the scourge, cooperation among countries and States that have experience in that regard, the implementation of all General Assembly and Security Council resolutions related to the topic, and the devotion of all resources at our disposal to defeat terrorism.

Mr. Olguín Cigarroa (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and reiterates its firm commitment to United Nations counter-terrorism activities.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 70/291, facilitated by Argentina and Iceland, on the occasion of the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It sends a message of unity and commitment against that scourge 10 years after the launch of the Strategy. Unfortunately, the recent terrorist attack at the Istanbul airport highlights once again the gravity and urgency of this agenda for the United Nations system. Allow me to offer my condolences to the Government of Turkey and to the families of the victims.

Chile endorses the principles and cross-cutting approaches reflected in the text of the resolution, which emphasizes the four pillars of the Global Strategy to strengthen national, regional and global efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, under the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, we reject and condem absolutely terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and support for counter-terrorism efforts to be undertaken with respect for human rights and in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law. We believe that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. In particular, we believe in close international cooperation to improve the capacities of States to implement the Global Strategy.

Furthermore, there is a need for the participation of civil society, the private sector and the different sectors of society, such as women, youth and religious leaders, who are indispensable actors to ensure a multidimensional approach to this task. We recognize the need to address terrorism on the basis of the three main pillars of the United Nations: international peace and security, sustainable development and full respect for the human rights of all.

Collectively, much remains to be done. In addition to summoning the will to achieve an international convention against terrorism, we must improve our understanding of the factors that contribute to radicalization, and take appropriate preventive measures to stop the recruitment of youth by terrorist groups, as reflected in Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security. In that regard, my delegation confirms its endorsement of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) and stresses the need to ensure the establishment of synergies between the Plan of Action and the Global Strategy.

We are convinced that strengthening intercultural and interfaith dialogue; promoting democratic values, respect for human rights and the dignity of all people without exclusion; education; enhancing diversity and tolerance; and measures aimed at redressing inequalities will promote greater inclusion and cohesion, which are deterrents to terrorism and the violent extremism that leads to terrorism.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to offer my most heartfelt condolences to the peoples and the Governments of Turkey, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and to the victims of the recent immoral terrorist attacks, including in Dhaka and Istanbul, and their families. I ask the Almighty to extend his mercy on them.

The Sudan associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109).

We commend the efforts of Argentina and Iceland to facilitate the consensus adoption of resolution 70/291 on the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. They performed their task with a great deal of enthusiasm and professionalism. We also take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/826), on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the contribution of States to that implementation.

The Sudan denounces any and all acts of terrorism, including State terrorism. We also express our commitment to cooperation in the implementation of the Global Strategy. We stress the importance of international and regional cooperation in strengthening the efforts made within the framework of the Strategy

to promote its complementarity and universality. We also support the four main pillars of the Strategy.

The review was undertaken against the backdrop of the emergence of new forms of terrorism, requiring renewed resolve on our part. As the scourge of terrorism poses the greatest danger to the global family and the international community, our will must be all the stronger. We have to stand even more united and work together to address the underlying causes of terrorism, not just its external manifestations.

Foreign occupation, military intervention, the threat of the use of force, unilateral coercive measures and the imposition of unfair sanctions in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations clearly represent a very serious threat to global peace and security and provide fertile ground for the terrorism and extremism that threaten international relations. The international community must therefore unite to put a definitive end to that phenomenon so that peace and stability can prevail throughout the world.

The Sudan reiterates the importance of ensuring that terrorism does not become associated with one region, ethnicity or religion. It is an international phenomenon that must be denounced and stopped, regardless of the perpetrator. We need to eliminate resort to stereotypes. The delegation of the Sudan therefore expresses its concern over the emergence of an aggressive attitude against Muslims in several societies and the binding measures taken against them, which only entrench hatred.

Let us work together to strengthen dialogue and tolerance among religions, peoples and civilizations and build a humankind based on a common foundation; put an end to xenophobia; create societies that live in peace; respect different religions and cultures; promote development; fight poverty, in particular in Africa; put an end to injustice and the imbalance in levels of development; strengthen the dialogue between the North and the South and strengthen dialogue internationally so as to a create balance in international institutions. All of this is key to combating terrorism and helps in fighting the underlying causes of terrorism.

It is impossible to completely eliminate terrorism through military force alone. It must be dealt with comprehensively by addressing its economic, cultural and political manifestations. We in the Sudan reject the unilateral measures used by several countries in denouncing some countries for allegedly protecting and harbouring terrorists. This serves clear political goals and is not helpful in combating terrorism. On the contrary, it aggravates existing tensions and politicizes an area that should instead inspire international solidarity. Therefore, we must denounce terrorism, regardless of where it exists, without associating it with any particular ethnicity, country or faith and we must do so while respecting international law and human rights.

The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) submitted by the Secretary-General shows that violent extremism does not have a specific interpretation. It cannot be aligned with any religion, region or society. The plan describes the reasons why it has worsened internationally and nationally. At the same time, despite the fact that the Plan is a timely and important initiative that is worthy of respect, it is not balanced. It focuses on violent extremism at the national level while not paying enough attention to international factors. In our opinion, that is one of the most important comments that can be made about this Plan. Also, it does not offer specific proposals as to how resources can be mobilized to support the programmes and activities under the Plan.

The Sudan participated in the negotiations that led to the consensus adoption of resolution 70/291 today with a clear spirit. We worked with the delegation of Saudi Arabia to arrive at a consensus among Member States based on our conviction that we need counter terrorism and violent extremism, which have spared no country or society. We want to bring about international peace and security; foster tolerance and dialogue among civilizations and religions; and work together with all of humankind.

We held negotiations for several weeks that resulted in a consensus on the resolution. The resolution is a reasonable and balanced package, but it did not meet a number of our national concerns. Nonetheless, we continued making a variety of efforts to ensure that the resolution contained the elements necessary to counter violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The responsibility for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy falls first and foremost on States. The Plan of Action and the recommendations of the resolution were addressed in a balanced way. They underscore the importance of national frameworks in line with the priorities and specific conditions in each State and also take into account national plans,

which can help States assume their address their own individual challenges.

Neither the preamble nor the operative part of the resolution clearly state the factors that have an international impact on the situation and lead to the escalation of terrorism and violent extremism. Generally speaking, the resolution encourages dealing with the internal and foreign factors in a balanced way. My delegation would like to reaffirm that the primary responsibility for the implementation of this agreement lies with the States themselves.

The resolution also refers to the important role played by the Counter-Terrorism Committee. In that regard, my delegation believes that there is a need to strengthen coordination among the institutions mandated with helping States implement the Strategy by providing them with what they need for its implementation. The proposals and alternatives for coordination through United Nations mechanisms also need to be dealt with so as to help them fight terrorism.

In conclusion, we welcome the efforts made by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, established within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Its role is to consolidate the capacities of Member States to combat terrorism. We would like to ensure that the Centre can carry out its functions by providing it with the financial needs to implement its programme and activities aimed at providing training and technical assistance to States.

We reiterate once again our commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as violent extremism, which leads to terrorism. We will pursue our efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and subregional levels and to support the role of the General Assembly in monitoring the implementation of this Strategy and its periodic review.

Mr. Alshamsi (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to strongly condemn the terrorist attack in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which led to the death of a woman and the injury of three children. We also condemn all acts aimed at terrorizing civilians. I would like to express our condolences to the delegations of Turkey and Jordan with regard to the attacks that both countries have witnessed.

The United Arab Emirates aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109) and it welcomes the adoption of resolution 70/291 by consensus.

Today, we are discussing a challenge that deeply threatens international peace and security, as terrorism is a global phenomenon that transcends borders, cultures and religions, leaving no State or city in the world safe from its dangers. The multitude of heinous terrorist attacks that have occurred in the recent years have left enormous damage in their wake, including thousands of casualties, an exacerbated migration crisis and irreversible damage and destruction of property and cultural heritage. This situation requires a robust international response to effectively counter terrorism.

The review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted 10 years ago, provides the international community with an opportunity to assess its achievements in this area and develop mechanisms to stay abreast of new developments in countering terrorism and of new challenges, most notably the spread of extremist ideologies, foreign terrorist fighters and the use of social media and modern technology by terrorist groups to achieve their malicious agenda.

Terrorism is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, and tackling it will require us to engage in a multipronged approach that goes beyond military operations alone. We must address terrorism in its early stages, analysing the roots of radicalization and extremism and countering recruitment. The United Arab Emirates has developed a comprehensive and multi-policy strategy to combat terrorism and remains committed to fighting extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We are also aware of the importance of addressing the conditions that are conducive to the spread of extremism and terrorism. In this context, the United Arab Emirates pursues efforts aimed at preventing extremism before it becomes violent. The United Arab Emirates focuses on the empowerment of its society by encouraging participation in State-building and providing alternatives to the options posed by terrorist groups. For example, the recent appointment of a female Minister of State for Youth to the United Arab Emirates Cabinet is rooted in our faith in young people.

In the United Arab Emirates, we are convinced that, by providing our young people with the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations and live up to their potential, we are investing in long-term development and the stability of our nation and beyond. We have also worked to promote the participation of women in all sectors of society and their integration in our efforts to combat extremism and terrorism.

Moreover, it is vital to work on the consolidation of moderation, tolerance and pluralism in our societies to prevent extremist groups from exploiting sectarianism and racism to recruit individuals. In this regard, the President of the United Arab Emirates has issued Decree Law No. 2 for the year 2015, which criminalizes all acts associated with the contempt of religion and holy sites and combats all forms of discrimination and rejects hate speech. We have also appointed a female Minister of Tolerance, who is working to spread the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence in the country. In addition to supporting moderate religious discourse, the United Arab Emirates has promoted many initiatives, including the Muslim Council of Elders, which aims to address the roots of extremism.

Issuing laws and regulations to deter extremism and terrorism is crucial. We have worked in the United Arab Emirates to develop a comprehensive legal framework to address violent extremism. The Government of the United Arab Emirates has enacted the 2014 amendments to the Terrorism Act in order to provide new tools to prosecute terrorists, while at the same time offering the opportunity to rehabilitate those who have rejected terrorism and abandoned its path.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has highlighted the importance of counter-terror financing, and since 2014, the United Arab Emirates has issued large-scale, anti-terrorist financing laws that criminalize all funding of terrorism. The United Arab Emirates has also joined important international conventions on this issue. We need to develop long-term strategies to overcome extremist and terrorist groups and to ensure their intellectual defeat, including through social media, which is being exploited to spread extremism and terrorism. The United Arab Emirates is therefore working to counter online messaging by extremist groups through the Sawab Center, which was launched by the United Arab Emirates in cooperation with the United States of America in March 2015 to fight extremist propaganda and recruitment by raising and strengthening the voices of moderates and opposing extremist ideologies in the region and around the world.

States must come together and unite their efforts regionally and internationally to uproot extremist and terrorist threats, including by exchanging best practices and experiences in this field and building international partnerships and coordinating efforts. The United Arab Emirates has willingly supported international efforts in the fight against extremism and terrorism, and has played an active role in the activities of the Working Group of the Global Coalition to Counter Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. The United Arab Emirates is honoured to host the Hedayah International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, which works to provide support, research, training and assistance to the international community to build capacities and share best practices.

In conclusion, I commend the efforts of the United Nations for its significant role in the development of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this regard, I thank the co-facilitators from Argentina and Iceland for their tremendous efforts to ensure that the resolution was adopted by consensus. We invite the international community, once again, to redouble its joint efforts to build societies that are safe and free from extremism and terrorism.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): I have just come from the Mission of Turkey, where I offered condolences on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the terrible loss of life in the terrorist attack earlier this week in Istanbul. Such attacks can only serve to strengthen our common resolve to counter terrorism. Terrorism is a grave threat to peace, justice and development, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands is a partner in countering that threat.

Let me commend the General Assembly for adopting resolution 70/291 on the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Getting the resolution adopted was not an easy task, and I would like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Iceland for their hard work.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union (see A/70/PV.109). In my national capacity, I will address three issues: resolution 70/291, implementation and the way ahead

On the first element — the important aspects of the resolution — the resolution contains language that is less ambitious than we had hoped for, but also contains various elements that will enable us to step up our common efforts in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism. Let me highlight some elements.

First, as regards the references to foreign terrorist fighters, the call to prevent their travels and to develop and implement strategies for prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration for those returning, the Kingdom of the Netherlands — as co-Chair of the working groups on foreign terrorist fighters of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) and the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, together with Turkey and Morocco — strongly supports strengthening the role of the United Nations and its Member States in countering the complex threat of foreign terrorist fighters and their return. In our view, women and youth require special attention in that regard.

Secondly, we welcome the references in the resolution to the prevention of violent extremism. An effective counter-terrorism strategy requires a balanced approach between preventive and repressive measures and should be in line with human rights obligations. We underline the fact that the resolution recommends that Member States consider the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674).

My second point concerns implementation. When preventing and countering terrorist threats, no community, country, region or international organization can be effective on its own. We all need to work together. We need to share more information, stop more terrorists and secure our homelands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore welcomes the fact that the resolution contains several strong references to the importance of coordination within the United Nations, but also externally with local actors and regional and international organizations. We need to think globally and act locally. As co-Chair, together with the Kingdom of Morocco, of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, we are firmly determined to be a partner in that endeavour.

The GCTF has become the main forum for discussing meaningful actions to fight terrorism in all its complexity. In recent years, the GCTF has adopted valuable good practices in areas such as foreign terrorist fighters and the prevention of violent extremism. It has mobilized funds to implement existing United Nations resolutions, and has worked with United Nations agencies to build capacity in Member States.

In the Strategic Plan of Action for 2016-2018, we have made a commitment to strengthen the GCTF's relationship with the United Nations and other countries to have more impact. Through the GCTF, we are committed to contributing to analyses, enhancing the implementation of United Nations resolutions, coordinating capacity-building on the ground and working with the United Nations system, its Member States and other stakeholders. The resolution that was adopted today makes us feel empowered in that commitment within the GCTF.

My third point concerns the way forward. As I said earlier, getting the resolution adopted was not an easy task. Terrorism strikes real people, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends and children. The fact that the resolution that we discussed today was adopted by consensus is therefore crucial. In our view, it sends a strong signal to violent extremists and terrorists all over the world that, despite our differences, the States Members of the United Nations stand united against violence, intolerance and hatred. Let the spirit of consensus that we are displaying today guide us in implementing the important commitments that we have made.

I have pointed out the elements in resolution 70/291 that the Kingdom of the Netherlands finds particularly important. I have underscored the necessity of cooperation at all levels and urged all of us to continue our work in the spirit of consensus. Let me conclude by stressing that the Kingdom of the Netherlands, bilaterally and as co-Chair of the GCTF, stands ready to lead in this by example. We are firmly committed to working even harder and better to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the resolution we adopted today. The Kingdom of the Netherlands will continue to be a partner for peace, justice and development so that future generations can live in a world free from terrorism.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): The General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus 10 years ago, but terrorism activities have increased. The nature of terrorism has become increasingly complex due to its changing manifestations, its geographical origins and

the evolution of its tactics. To these elements, we would add the growth in the number of terrorist organizations and in the nationalities of those who carry out terrorist acts.

We hope that the fifth review of the Global Strategy will offer an opportunity to reassess the tools at our disposal in order to rise to those new challenges on the basis of the measures that we have adopted, evaluate the situation of countries that are victims of terrorist acts, counter the phenomenon, and to curb the recruitment of marginalized and poverty-stricken, unemployed youth.

United Nations efforts to eradicate terrorism will succeed only if we implement the Strategy. We also need to recognize that military efforts alone will not be successful, to understand the root causes of the phenomenon and to address them at the political, economic and social level and with respect for the sovereignty of States, human rights and the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other States.

We believe in adopting measures that help States strengthen their institutions for the benefit of balanced local development. Undoubtedly, the settlement of conflicts will help to prevent terrorists from using entire regions as safe havens for their activities. In this context, I reaffirm the need to strengthen regional cooperation, provide technical assistance for capacity-building in those countries that have been subject to terrorist acts, exchange expertise, and take legislative and judicial action to criminalize terrorist acts in order to facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators of such acts.

It is important to note that many countries that have endured terrorist acts on their soil, including mine, need assistance in the fight against terrorism. My Government and Parliament would like to receive needed support in fighting such organizations as Ansar al-Sharia, Al-Qaida and Da'esh, all of which are present in many regions of our country. We would also like to request wider international cooperation and assistance so that we can implement Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), on foreign terrorist fighters, with a view to preventing such fighters from joining international terrorist organizations and stopping and punishing the sources of funding for terrorism.

There is a close link between terrorism and other kinds of crime. Transnational crimes such as trafficking in arms, drugs and persons, money laundering and the sale of oil are used by terrorists to fund their activities. States need to act bilaterally, multilaterally and regionally in order to have the means to coordinate and exchange information and experience. They also need to implement the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), which was designed to support of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, given the relationship between violent extremism and terrorism. In addition, we need to help countries implement their own plans for countering violent extremism. This needs to be done by States themselves, in coordination with other States, and with the help of the United Nations.

My country, Libya, has endured great suffering as a consequence of terrorism. Da'esh, Al-Qaida and Ansar al-Sharia have sought to take over certain Libyan towns and cities in order to control the oil resources there, or, where they have been unable to do so, to destroy them. These groups bring in terrorists from many other countries and are now threatening the unity and stability of my country. Their actions also threaten neighbouring countries. As a result, the international community must adopt a strong position in order to enable my country, Libya, to discharge its duties to strengthen the rule of law, respect international obligations, restore peace and stability, combat terrorism and ensure that terrorism does not continue to spread. Specifically, the Libyan army, in addition to much-needed technical assistance, also needs weapons and matériel to fight terrorist organizations, secure the national territory and control its borders. Moreover, Libya's institutions need support, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2214 (2015).

In conclusion, I reiterate that we condemn and fully reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its justification may be, whatever the identity of the perpetrator. Terrorism is a global phenomenon; it is not associated with any particular race, religion, ethnicity, or society. We further affirm that terrorist acts that are purely criminal must be distinguished from those that are the expression of the struggle of a people for self-determination or to be free of occupation.

Mr. Dahl (Norway): Terrorism and violent extremism are among the greatest security challenges of our time. They bring death and suffering to innocent people and destruction and insecurity to entire societies and regions. No country is immune, as Norway unfortunately learned in 2011, when it was struck by right-wing extremism.

Since the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by consensus in the General Assembly in 2006, the threat landscape has changed dramatically. New terrorist groups have emerged. Violent extremists are finding new ways to carry out their attacks, spread their propaganda, finance their activities and recruit people to their ranks. The international community must adapt to this changing landscape. The United Nations must play a central role in our collective response to terrorism and in preventing violent extremism. Respect for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and freedom of expression are fundamental values that must be upheld if we are to successfully counter radicalization and violent extremism.

Norway believes in a balanced implementation of the Global Strategy. The Secretary General's new Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) is timely. Norway welcomes and strongly supports the Plan. It gives a much-needed emphasis to pillars I and IV of the Strategy's Plan of Action. The new Plan focuses on national, regional and United Nations activities as drivers for positive change. It seeks to tackle conditions conducive to terrorism and to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law. We must pursue both push and pull factors. At the same time, we must ensure that our interventions are specific to preventing violent extremism, rather just relevant to preventing violent extremism.

The Plan addresses how we can effectively counter the manipulative messages of violent extremism, by advocating freedom of expression and the values of tolerance, pluralism and understanding. These are all necessary ingredients when building peaceful and inclusive societies. Improved coordination will help strengthen the role of the United Nations and ensure a balanced implementation of the Strategy and an effective response to the Plan Action. This is a matter of urgency, and resolution 70/291, adopted today, gives us a clear time frame for the provision of concrete suggestions to reform the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture.

Member States have the primary responsibility for implementing measures to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. Let me highlight some of Norway's efforts since the last review. In April, the Norwegian Parliament adopted a white paper on global security challenges, addressing terrorism, organized crime, piracy and cybersecurity. The plan provides a framework for Norway's international efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. It also addresses the nexus between those threats, in particular threat-financing and the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, whereby terrorist organizations, often indirectly, benefit from the trafficking of arms, drugs, persons and cultural artefacts, as well as the illicit trade in natural resources, such as oil and charcoal.

National action plans on preventing violent extremism are important tools. Norway adopted its first plan of action in 2010. The plan has since been revised. It takes a whole-of-Government approach, with nine ministries involved in its implementation. The current plan is updated regularly to respond to the rapidly changing landscape of threats. This approach ensures legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness. Norway is contributing to all five lines of effort set out by the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). ISIL is losing ground in Syria and Iraq, and its recruitment seems to be slowing down. We must increase our focus on the threat that foreign terrorist fighters pose upon returning home or travelling to other areas of instability. Thirty-four foreign terrorist fighters have returned to Norway, of whom 20 have been indicted and 4 have been convicted for terrorism-related crimes.

In June 2015, Norway hosted a regional summit on countering violent extremism as part of President Obama's initiative on countering violent extremism. The Oslo conference paved the way for a new global alliance of women's organizations working to prevent violent extremism. This alliance will provide an important opportunity for small grass-roots organizations to have their voices heard. Another initiative at the conference was the Youth Against Violent Extremism initiative, which gathered 200 youth workers and young activists from across Europe. Their message was strong and clear — young people's voices must be heard when Governments are forming new polices and strategies. We welcome the fact that the importance of including women and youth in decision-making processes is underlined in the resolution.

The young people at the conference formed a network against violent extremism called YouthCAN. Prime Minister Cameron has taken the initiative to expand the network to Commonwealth countries. Today, YouthCAN has more than 600 members from 85 countries, and more are needed. We asked the members of the YouthCAN network for their views on the

Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) and Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security. They urged the international community and national Governments to facilitate encounters between local and national Governments and youth activists working on preventing violent extremism, investing in education and training for young people, as well as supporting international youth networks that provide platforms for young people to share knowledge, projects and best practices.

Last year, the launch of the Strong Cities network highlighted the important role of local Governments. It is at the local level that the drivers of violent extremism can best be addressed, and local authorities are well placed to take preventive measures. The Strong Cities network enables cities across the world to pool their resources, knowledge and best practices. Two Norwegian cities, Oslo and Kristiansand, are participating in the network, and we hope that other Norwegian cities will join, as well.

Violent extremism is both an international security concern and a development issue. Poverty alone is not the sole cause of violent extremism. Nevertheless, real or perceived marginalization, whether economic, social or political, is often an important element in the process of radicalization, resulting in violent extremism. We need to remember that violent extremism is an important driver for many of the world's current conflicts. These conflicts are obstacles to social and economic development, and sometimes roll back already-achieved progress and growth. That is why sustainable Development Goal 16, on peaceful, just and inclusive societies, is so important. In March, the United Nations Development Programme organized a global conference in Oslo on preventing violent extremism and promoting inclusive development. The conference revealed how development actors can play a significant role.

I would like to sincerely thank the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Iceland and Argentina, and their teams for their tireless efforts and leadership, which led to the adoption by consensus today of resolution 70/291 on important issue.

To conclude, we must step up our efforts against terrorism and violent extremism, and urgently implement concrete measures. The Plan of Action is a crucial part of this and the Secretary-General's ambition to re-energize the United Nations' prevention agenda. We need a strong United Nations to show global leadership. We need a United Nations that is fit for purpose, better coordinated and has sufficient resources to do its part.

Mr. Suárez Moreno (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela joins in the expressions of solidarity and condolences to the Government and the people of Turkey following the recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul. The serious consequences of those acts lead us to reaffirm our firm commitment to combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in the belief that this scourge is a threat to international peace and security.

We welcome the adoption by consensus of resolution 70/291, marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on this subject. Furthermore, our delegation wishes to recognize the leadership with which the Ambassadors of Argentina and Iceland and their respective teams led the work of co-facilitating the fifth review of the Strategy and text we have adopted, following complex rounds of negotiation.

The Venezuelan delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Venezuela reiterates its categorical rejection of terrorist acts, whatever their motivations and wherever and by whomever they are committed, because they are deliberate attacks on international peace and security and constitute flagrant violations of international law. The commitment of my country to the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is reflected at the international and regional levels in its adhesion to numerous treaties and conventions in that area, and nationally in a series of legal instruments that emphasize, inter alia, control, prevention and oversight measures in combating terrorist financing and money-laundering.

Venezuela believes that the acts committed by terrorist groups endanger the territorial integrity and political unity of States, contributing to the destabilization of legitimate Governments and undermining their constitutional order with the ultimate aim of overthrowing them. All of that negatively impacts the economic and social development of peoples, including the deliberate destruction of their infrastructure and national institutions. Experience

teaches us that terrorist groups feed on despair, injustice, frustration, lack of opportunity and the denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms to promote their criminal and political agenda, based on hatred, intolerance, sectarianism and violent extremism. Poverty, social and economic inequality; political, ethnic and religious intolerance; the imposition of unilateral coercive measures; occupations, foreign interventions and violations of the sovereignty of peoples and nations are also some of the drivers of terrorism.

My country believes that the current situation of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East and North Africa is no coincidence. In our view, the military interventions of major Powers in Iraq in 2003 and Libya in 2011 — aimed at overthrowing the Governments of sovereign countries, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, with the subsequent collapse of State institutions — created the conditions for the emergence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Al-Qaida, Ansar al-Sharia and others in those regions to implement their strategy of destruction, based on terror and negation of the other. The rapid rise of terrorism is the result, inter alia, of the financial and military support provided to armed and violent non-State actors who were previously exploited as instruments of destabilization before becoming terrorist groups that merged with ISIS, expanding rapidly in those regions.

Today we can observe that, as a result of the escalation of conflicts in various regions of the world, terrorism and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters have enjoyed a rapid rise globally. Terrorism, with its criminal methods, seeks to subjugate societies, civilizations, religions and beliefs through practices based on intolerance, violent extremism and sectarianism. Nevertheless, we reaffirm that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, civilization or ethnic group.

The most recent terrorist attacks perpetrated in more than a dozen countries and claiming the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians, particularly those committed by ISIS, demonstrate that the entire world is vulnerable to this terrible scourge. This is evidenced by the unprecedented threat posed by the self-styled Islamic State, which has been joined by at least 34 terrorist organizations from different regions of the world — not only the Middle East and North Africa — and compounded by the sordid phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. More than 30,000 individuals, including women and young people, from at least 100 countries all over the world have joined these terrorist groups, not to mention the silent threat posed by so-called lone wolves.

The relentless violence committed in recent times by terrorist groups and non-State actors — through the recruitment of children, abductions, the destruction of the cultural heritage, slavery and sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war, as well as the use of chemical weapons — has had a significant impact on civilians, in particular ethnic and religious minorities and the most vulnerable groups, whose human rights have been systematically and deliberately trampled, in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. In addition to unleashing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, such actions represent an evident pattern of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, all of which are clearly defined in the Rome Statute. Consequently, those responsible for such acts must be brought to justice.

In this crucial fight, we stress the importance of employing a preventive approach; of adopting initiatives aimed at undermining the clear strategy behind these groups and the extremist ideologies that have been promoting violence and intolerance; of addressing the root causes that fuel this heinous phenomenon; and of developing innovative and effective strategies adapted to specific national contexts to counter extremist and terrorist narratives and generate critical thinking within societies, with a view to preventing radicalization, recruitment and the mobilization of resources through the inappropriate use of communication and information technologies. In this regard, we believe that empowering women and young people and strengthening the potential role played by victims of terrorism could be of great benefit. We therefore welcome the balanced reference to these elements in the resolution adopted today.

Venezuela reaffirms that an effective struggle against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations does not allow for dichotomies. There is only one terrorism and we must unequivocally prevent, combat and eradicate it, while distinguishing it from the legitimate struggle for self-determination of peoples living under colonial domination. That is why we believe that the role of the General Assembly as the legitimate representative forum of the international community will be decisive in the fight against this unprecedented and significant threat, particularly through the design, implementation and enhancement

of strategies to counter the rise of terrorist groups and non-State actors alike. It is time to stress the relevance of our United Nations and revitalize our coordinated efforts in the fight against terrorism.

My country is of the view that the fight against that scourge, including its financing and the narratives and ideologies that fuel it, must be waged in the framework of enhanced international cooperation, in accordance with relevant international and regional instruments, including the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the regulations of international law, and with full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, keeping in mind that failing to do so would only contribute to radicalization.

Today more than ever, it is of vital importance that States wage war against terrorism in earnest through the full rather than selective implementation of the provisions of international instruments and the relevant resolutions of this multilateral forum that prohibit the transfer of arms, including small and light weapons, and the funding, training and hosting of terrorist groups, and through the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Strategy that we have renewed today.

Today more than ever, we must redouble our efforts to achieve the political settlement of the conflicts in Syria, Libya, Iraq and Palestine if we indeed wish to combat terrorism in both the short and the long terms. These protracted crises further exacerbate conflicts, serve as a breeding ground for violent extremism, terrorism and transnational organized crime, and facilitate the flow, financing and training of foreign terrorist fighters.

Finally, we believe that, today more than ever, the international community must continue working resolutely as one to coordinate the design, implementation and enhancement of strategies, adapted on a case-by-case basis to specific nations, to counter the capacity for action of terrorist groups and non-State actors. In this regard, we believe that the future adoption of a international convention against terrorism would complement the existing body of international legal instruments by formulating a definition that would help garner consensus.

Mrs. Özkan (Turkey): I would like to express our thanks to the President of the General Assembly for convening the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also like to extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report (A/70/826).

The adoption of the Strategy in 2006 has proven to be a groundbreaking achievement. Ten years after its adoption, the terrorist threat has not diminished; it has proliferated ideologically and geographically, and has become less predictable and more atrocious. Turkey, like many others, has been targeted in the past year. The latest attack in Istanbul claimed the lives of 44 innocent people and injured 239. I would like to pay respect to the memories of all the victims of terrorism, including those of the recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Yemen and Somalia.

Associating terrorism with one religion or ideology is wrong. Adopting a selective approach is counterproductive. It weakens our collective stance to defeat this scourge. For us, there is no good or bad terrorist. Turkey is simultaneously fighting three different terrorist groups: Da'esh, the Kurdish Workers Party and the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party. Regarding Da'esh, we will decisively continue to fight that terrorist organization and will give active support to international efforts in this respect.

Since the fourth review in 2014, facilitated by Turkey, important new steps have been taken at the United Nations to address the threat of terrorism and violent extremism, such as the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), which Turkey co-sponsored, the development of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Capacity-Building Implementation Plan by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), and the publication of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674). We welcome the efforts of the CTITF to further enhance coordination and coherence and to enhance the capabilities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to better address new challenges.

Turkey firmly believes that, by virtue of its universal representation and capacity to interlink various aspects in addressing terrorism, the United Nations has a central role to play in combating terrorism. The Global Strategy provides guidance for all. We attach importance to its implementation across its four pillars.

We would like to acknowledge the work accomplished on the outcome of the review by the facilitators of resolution 70/291, the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Iceland, and their experts, as well as all

delegations that engaged constructively in this process. There are many provisions of the text that we welcome, yet we wish to register our misgivings regarding some others.

We are pleased to note that the need to address the continuing threat of foreign terrorist fighters is duly reflected in the resolution, including with regard to their return and repatriation. We welcome the emphasis on a strong criminal justice response. It is important to send terrorists the clear message that there is no safe haven or immunity from justice, and we have to ensure the implementation of the universal principle of extradite-or-prosecute. We also welcome the growing focus on the need to prevent the financing of terrorism, including by recognizing that terrorist groups may benefit from transnational organized crime.

In our joint effort, we must bear in mind that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law complements and mutually reinforces effective counter-terrorism measures, and is an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism strategy. On the other hand, sustained conflicts provide terrorist groups with an opportunity for recruitment and safe havens. These facts compel us to enhance the coherence and complementarity of our existing counter-terrorism measures by developing new approaches and tools. In that respect, violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations is a growing source of concern for Turkey and needs to be addressed with equal resolve. While rule of law-based security measures remain the fundamental pillar of counter-terrorism efforts, a broader, balanced, holistic and comprehensive approach, involving whole-of-society and whole-of-Government responses, is needed to make our societies more resilient against extremism.

Since there is no one-size-fits-all approach to preventing extremism, tailor-made approaches to local and regional conditions that take into account a complex mix of historical, political, ethnic, cultural, economic and other factors, as well as the capacities, legal systems and needs of States, are essential. The role of civil society, women and youth is also vital in this regard. It is possible to effectively prevent violent extremism only when a genuine cooperative framework at the global level can be established under the guidance of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism is an important document in that effort.

The United Nations plays a role in leading international efforts in countering terrorism and addressing violent extremism at the global level, and guiding and assisting Member States in their own national efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. In that regard, we look forward to further engaging with the Secretary-General in the review of the United Nations system's capabilities, as called for in the resolution.

Before I conclude, let me express our sincere appreciation to all who have displayed solidarity with us with regard to the recent attack in Istanbul. We have also taken note of certain elements of the statement of the representative of the Syrian regime. They are, if nothing else, words of disrespect to the memories of victims and to their family members.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): At the outset, I align myself with the statement made by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109).

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a living document. The tenth anniversary of its adoption is a sobering reminder of the challenges the international community has encountered so far and the ever-new threats that continue to engulf us across our borders.

As I speak, a situation is unfolding in our capital, where a number of armed assailants have reportedly taken some local and foreign nationals hostage at a restaurant. Our authorities are trying to resolve the situation through combined law enforcement efforts and to avoid any further bloodshed, to the extent possible. It is still premature to make any comments about the assailants' real motives.

We echo the Secretary-General's sentiments that a show of our unity of purpose is a sine qua non to defeat the global phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism. The consensus resolution 70/291 adopted at this fifth review of the Global Strategy has indeed allowed us to pass that test. My delegation joins others in conveying our appreciation to Argentina and Iceland for diligently steering us through the adoption of the resolution. It will stand out as an important record, as the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) has been recognized as part of the Global Strategy's broader framework. This should pave the way towards a further balanced implementation of the Strategy across its four pillars.

The resolution attempts to strike some balance in identifying the local and external drivers of terrorism and the violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism. This is crucial, since a selective approach to the underlying causes of terrorism and violent extremism may serve political expediency, but it will hardly make the counter-terrorism narrative holistic and credible.

The resolution also calls on the Secretary-General to make concrete suggestions concerning the means for enhancing coordination and coherence in United Nations counter-terrorism activities. In that regard, my delegation would like to see pragmatic and decisive suggestions to address the institutional gaps that have been noted. We share the Secretary-General's concern over the paucity of resources for capacity-building to support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This needs to be addressed in right earnest, starting with an analytical report from the Secretary-General on a realistic assessment of the resources required.

We appreciate the ongoing work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and other United Nations entities to contribute to Member States' capacity-building, from which we have benefited in many aspects. We need to map the United Nations system in order to identify the available expertise within various entities, in accordance with their respective mandates. That could help us to avoid duplicating our efforts and allow us to concentrate resources and expertise within one or two specialized entities, thereby ensuring sustainable and predictable capacity-building support.

The Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) would also benefit from mobilizing additional resources that could be complemented by public-private funding mechanisms, such as the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund. In Bangladesh, our authorities have expressed interest in developing a national action plan on preventing violent extremism within the framework of our national counter-terrorism strategy. Our society's strides in women's empowerment have been critical to building resilience to the spread of violent extremism and radicalization at the community level. Our religious leaders have proven to be important allies in disseminating counter-terrorist narratives from the perspective of the holy scriptures. We are counting on a whole-of-society approach to reverse the radicalization trend among certain segments of our youth, including those who are motivated to act on their own or in small splinter groups. We call for the sustained support of our development partners to scale up our investment in inclusive and transformative education and gainful employment opportunities for our young people.

On the counter-terrorism front, we are working to further develop our capacities in investigation and prosecution, witness and victim protection, countering online violent extremist narratives, tracking the linkage between the diaspora and terrorist financing, ensuring effective border management, aviation and maritime security, and promulgating a comprehensive national list of controlled dual-use and other materials. The recent establishment of a counter-terrorism and transnational crimes unit, with 600 police personnel, is aimed at further strengthening our law enforcement capacity to contain terrorist acts, cybercrimes, the financing of terrorism and related transnational organized crimes. We recognize the need for the regular orientation of law enforcement agencies, the media and other stakeholders on international human rights and rule-of-law standards in counter-terrorism responses.

At the global level, Bangladesh supports carrying forward the work on developing comprehensive counter-terrorism legislation. We reiterate our call for developing a shared understanding among law enforcement and prosecution authorities and the information and communication technologies industry to facilitate an effective legal response to prevent the abuse of the Internet and social media networks, especially when used for terrorist purposes.

The Government of Bangladesh, under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership, remains committed to a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Resolute actions taken to degrade home-grown terrorist outifts and deny sanctuary to any regional or international terrorist operative have created an existential crisis for those elements. In their desperate measures, they have found patronage from certain political groups that have faced difficulty in advancing their own vested agendas in an environment of democracy, pluralism, diversity and tolerance. That unholy nexus of terrorists and political extremists has been mainly responsible for recent targeted attacks and for making martyrs of intellectuals, religious leaders of different denominations, rights activists and foreign nationals.

In turn, the situation has attracted the attention of certain international terrorist networks that are evidently seeking to gain a foothold in the region by making exaggerated claims about their presence and involvement within our territory. In many ways, this unfortunate episode is a reminder of the struggle, during our War of Independence, to create a democratic, secular, non-communal and multicultural nation. Despite the current odds, we continue to draw inspiration from that struggle and remain convinced that we shall triumph over this phase, hopefully in a conclusive manner, as we have done again and again. We seek the international community's continued support and understanding for our efforts.

Mr. Holovka (Serbia): First of all, I wish to express our condolences and sympathies to the families and nations of the victims of the latest terrorist attacks. I also wish to thank the two co-facilitators and their teams for their outstanding work and tremendous efforts in negotiating resolution 70/291.

The Republic of Serbia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier today by the observer of the European Union (see A/70/PV.109). I shall therefore make some comments from my national perspective.

The growing threats of terrorism and violent extremism are among the greatest perils of the present day. Frequent and, regrettably, visible tragic consequences are evident all over the world. The region of South-East Europe is no exception in that regard. In fighting terrorism, we need increased international coordination and exchanges of experiences. Our meeting today is another step in the right direction.

For 10 years now, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has been the cornerstone of our joint efforts to eliminate terrorism. Counter-terrorism activities within the United Nations system are of priority importance to Serbia, and my country has invested significant efforts to fully implement all relevant documents of the United Nations, including the Strategy and its principles. The activities and the coordination of measures undertaken in the context of the four pillars of the Strategy are of great importance if we are to achieve the desired results. Addressing the causes and preventive measures, strengthening the capacities of countries and the role of the United Nations, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law have been at the forefront of Serbia's efforts to fight terrorism.

As a victim of terrorism and violent extremism, Serbia considers a high level of cooperation, including cooperation in prevention activities, to be the best way to fight this scourge effectively. Intensifying national, regional and international efforts in fighting terrorism and extremism and preventing radicalization is therefore of paramount importance. The number of foreign terrorist fighters recruited in the region of the Western Balkans is smaller than in other parts of the world. As a sponsor of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), my country has made significant efforts to counter the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon. We have taken preventive measures and measures to ensure social inclusion. While recognizing the specific threat posed by the phenomenon, our relevant Government agencies have given appropriate attention to centres of potential indoctrination and recruitment.

Recently, the Secretary-General presented his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674). In resolution 70/254 of 12 February 2016, the General Assembly welcomed that initiative and announced that new efforts would be taken in that field.

My country is well aware of the importance of taking timely action, and its institutions are actively engaged in preventing violent extremism and radicalization, the all-important stepping stones that lead to terrorism. The promotion of good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law are all instrumental in decreasing the risks of terrorism and creating conditions for its eradication. In that regard, providing young people choices and offering them support can also have a catalytic effect.

During its chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2015, Serbia launched, in cooperation with the OSCE secretariat, the OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism initiative. At its meeting in Belgrade on 4 December 2015, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted the Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism and the Declaration on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of Recent Terrorist Attacks.

Today perhaps more than ever, we need joint efforts as the United Nations and its Member States continue to face an ever greater threat of terrorism. We need to strengthen our capacities and take comprehensive measures, including prevention, to fight

terrorism. Failure or lack of cooperation in that regard is unacceptable.

Mr. Anshor (Indonesia): Let me begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly for convening the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the Strategy (A/70/826). I would also like to commend the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Iceland and their respective teams for co-facilitating the consultations on resolution 70/291, on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/70/PV.109).

Since the last review of the Strategy in 2014 (see A/68/PV.94 *et seq.*), terrorism has continued to present a great challenge to global peace and security. In certain aspects, the challenges are even greater now than they were in 2014. On the issue of foreign terrorist fighters, for example, we have witnessed a growth in the flow of foreign terrorist fighters entering conflict areas in the Middle East. Their presence has complicated efforts to start a political process to end the conflict. Further, foreign terrorist fighters who return to their home countries bring with them skills and experience in planning attacks and pose the risk of spreading terrorist narratives. We have seen frequent attacks by lone terrorists, encouraged, inter alia, by the availability of violent extremist materials on the Internet. There is also a risk of terrorist groups exploiting the flow of refugees and asylum seekers to send their members to other countries.

Despite those tremendous challenges, however, the international community remains committed to strengthening efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The meeting that we are having today is a testament to that steadfast commitment. Earlier this year, the Secretary-General introduced his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), which is intended to complement the Strategy. Outside the United Nations system, countries and regional organizations have continued working together to build capacities and exchange knowledge and experiences. Indonesia is of the view that the implementation of the Strategy in the coming period should build upon those promising developments and take into account the dynamism of the challenges that we face. Along that line, I wish to underscore the following pertinent points.

First, coordination and coherence must remain fundamental to our global cooperation. The United Nations system can assist Member countries in achieving these objectives by reaching out to global and regional organizations or frameworks on counter-terrorism. This process should aim at connecting the different efforts and promoting synergy to ensure greater impacts on the ground. Such a process would also improve networks among different regional organizations or frameworks, and encourage them to share relevant information pertaining to local dynamics and their implications outside the region.

Secondly, preventive measures must remain at the forefront of our efforts. Taking into account the complexity of challenges, it is well understood that preventive measures must encompass a wide range of aspects, including preventing the spread of terrorist and violent extremist narratives, the travel of foreign terrorist fighters, terrorist attacks from occurring and terrorist financing, among others. Those daunting tasks demand that States remain ahead of terrorist groups in terms of capacity and information. Preventive measures are also closely related to addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Poverty, injustice and discrimination are among the conditions that encourage people to embrace violent views. Meanwhile, prolonged conflicts continue to provide safe havens to terrorist groups and become magnets attracting foreign terrorist fighters. Our common endeavours to end conflicts are critical in that particular matter.

Third is the strengthening of United Nations roles in building States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism. Indonesia welcomes the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Centre to push for a more coordinated approach in all United Nations capacity-building activities. Along the same line, we continue to advocate for a more effective monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that United Nations capacity-building activities remain relevant to the needs of each State.

Critical in this area is the State's capacity to devise a national plan that optimizes soft measures to prevent terrorism, such as education, instilling tolerance and dialogue. States must also be able to assemble the different but complementary capacities of relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations,

media, families, women, young people and victims of terrorist attack. The capacity to protect human rights while countering terrorism is also essential because the violation of human rights may be used by terrorists to support their narratives.

To conclude, Indonesia wishes to re-emphasize the danger of associating terrorism and violent extremism with a specific religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Such practices are incorrect and will only impede all our efforts to establish coordinated approaches.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I should like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the progress of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/70/826) and the President of the General Assembly for having convened this fifth review, which I have had the honour to co-facilitate with my colleague and friend, Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland.

On behalf of my country, I also wish to reiterate our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of Turkey with regard to the attack that took place at Istanbul Atatürk Airport this week, and to reaffirm my country's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism not only threaten international peace and security, but also threaten human life and endanger the stability, the consolidation of democracy and socioeconomic development of nations.

The actions carried out by Argentina to prevent and eradicate terrorism are based on the full respect for the rule of law, fundamental guarantees, international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law, and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Terrorism undermines the values and principles of States, democracy and freedoms. Accordingly, countering terrorism requires an integrated and multidimensional approach in order to act on the broadest possible levels of cooperation with a view to addressing the threat in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism cannot be addressed solely through the implementation of measures of defence or security, but must be based on a comprehensive approach, as reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, starting with the balanced implementation of its four pillars, in full respect for international law, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.

In the framework of pillar I of the Global Strategy, Argentina attaches great importance to prevention. The critical importance of education in combating discrimination, xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, and in promoting a culture of tolerance, dialogue and diversity can never be overemphasized. In this context, too, the role of the media is essential.

Accordingly, we have given our support to the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), whose importance we have recognized in resolution 70/291, which we have just adopted, in the light of its preventive nature, and which seeks to set up a comprehensive framework for fighting the violent extremism that leads to terrorism. I wish to express the firmest commitment of my country with the resolution because it reflects both the values and principles of the United Nations that support Argentina's position in the fight against terrorism and the new nuances leading to terrorist acts that terrorism and violent extremism have acquired in recent years and especially since its last Strategy review in June 2014.

In this regard, we welcome the spirit of the resolution and the actions that it seeks to elicit from Member States, in particular strengthening their performance in multilateral contexts, especially the United Nations, the Secretariat, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Security Council, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, as well as specialized organizations and regional and subregional organizations. Argentina considers that these are the most appropriate forums for coordinating the necessary collaboration and cooperation among States for the prevention and eradication of terrorism.

Internet use by terrorist groups and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters are two other aspects that the resolution addresses as a priority and which Argentina considers to have gained importance in the field of preventing and fighting terrorism, and which can only be dealt with through sustained cooperation that allows for the sharing of experience and best practices at the international level. In this regard, I wish to emphasize the importance for preventing radicalization and resulting violent extremism of the use by terrorist groups of new information and communications technology, particularly the Internet, to communicate their message through a seductive

narrative oriented towards vulnerable groups that are fertile ground for extremist ideologies, thereby opening the way for recruitment.

While the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters seems to be neither certain nor imminent, both at the Argentine and regional levels, we cannot help but pay due attention to the phenomenon today. Our country is aware of the dual track in which radicalization leading to violent extremism can be played out in the case of already-radicalized fighters who in turn use the opportunity of returning to their home countries or going to other countries to spread extremist ideologies which contribute to new recruitments.

Terrorist networks forged against the backdrop of violent extremism could pose a serious threat for decades to come. Argentina believes that the most efficient way to combat this phenomenon is to maximize international cooperation to find mechanisms for exchanging information on the movements of potential foreign terrorist fighters. I wish to emphasize the fundamental role that the United Nations, the Global Strategy and its biannual reviews play in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, due to their holistic and cross-cutting approach at national, regional or international levels, which supports the Strategy and enables preventing and combating these threats through a common front.

In conclusion, we appreciate the high responsibility assigned to my country, together with Iceland, to co-facilitate the fifth biennial Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Strategy. Throughout the process we have tried to maintain an open, transparent and inclusive approach, in order to reach a solid final result that renews the Organization's consensus in its counter-terrorist activities. I think I can say with satisfaction that we have achieved that goal. I therefore wish to reiterate, on behalf of the facilitators and our teams, our deep and sincere gratitude to the delegations of all Member States for the constructive spirit and the ongoing collaboration which allowed, despite the difficulties and sensitive nature of the subject, reached a final outcome.

I also have a special word of thanks for the Secretariat, particularly the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the CTITF, for their constant support of the facilitators. And finally I wish to thank the President of the General Assembly, and especially his team, which permanently offered their effective and tireless support throughout the entire process.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this agenda item for this meeting.

One representative has asked to exercise the right of reply. I remind him that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Althari (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish to tell the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic that the reality in Syria speaks for itself. The whole world is witnessing what is happening in that country. The representative of Syria said that certain countries finance terrorism, but that remark is just a way for the Syrian Government to draw attention away from what it is doing at home.

As for Israel, we have also noticed that that country has been killing Palestinians and that its Government is trying to distract attention from all the killing, the occupation of Palestine, and the fact that Gaza has been turned into a place of death and destruction. All these crimes have been perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinians. In the light of Israel's State terrorism, none of the statements made by its representative should carry any weight.

In terms of our efforts to combat terrorism, it is clear how hard we have been working to that end. Resolution 70/291, which we have adopted today, is the best proof possible of the efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in these endeavours.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.